



HEROES



V O L U M E T W O

THE HEROES SAGA CONTINUES!

Ordinary people and their extraordinary tales come to life in this volume — people who can instantly learn new skills just by watching them...or snap out charges of electricity to elicit pleasure or pain...or have the power to kill people by invading their minds?

Kiro Nakamura, Sylar, Claire and Noah Bennett, Peter and Nathan Petrell, Nikki and Micah Sanders, Matt Parkman, Mohinder Suresh, Ando Masahashi — they're all back, and joined by some extraordinary new characters:

MIMI — her sinister power is kept in check only by her brother's calming nature.

ELLE — an electrifying Femme Fatale The Company puts to good use.

MONICA — Micah's cousin who would give up her powers in order to help her Family.

WEST — Claire's new boyfriend sweeps her off her feet with his ability of flight.



BOB — one of the Founders of The Company, he rules with a strong hand...and a Midas touch.

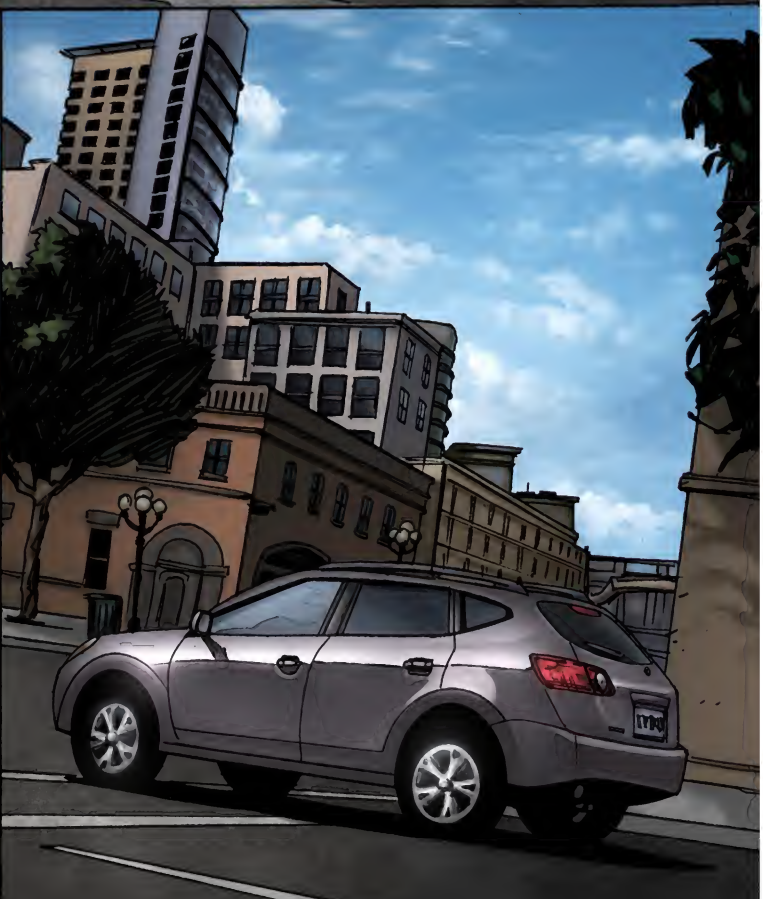
Read their stories and more in this second volume of **HEROES**, collecting chapters thirty-five through eighty of the popular online graphic novel series.

HEROES

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HEROES

CHAPTER 35

It Takes a Village

Part 1 of 4

Who commands the loyalty of the man known only as "the Haitian"? Though he partnered for years with Noah Bennet, the man in horned-rimmed glasses, the Haitian turned against him to aid Claire, Bennet's daughter. Then, he seemed to betray both to Claire's grandmother, Angela Petrelli. Does he take orders from her... or answer ultimately to an even higher power?



OH...
OH...
I...
OHHHHH...

SOME OF THEM *SMILE*.
HAVE YOU NOTICED?



AFTER THE INITIAL SHOCK, I MEAN. YOU CAN ALMOST SEE IT COME OVER THEM.

A WAVE ROLLING IN, FILLING THE EMPTY SPACES WITH... *STILLNESS*.
PEACE.



MAKES SENSE. I'M SURE MR. PARKMAN HERE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO'D WANT TO BE RELIEVED OF HIS BURDENS?

LOVE TO KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE, JUST ONCE.



I WAS BEING RHETORICAL. I KNOW YOU SURE AS HELL AREN'T GOING TO TELL ME.

SOMETIMES, IT'S LIKE PICKING FLOWERS JUST AFTER A SPRING RAIN...

SOMETIMES, LIKE REACHING INTO THE MOIST SOIL OF FRESHLY DUG GRAVES. GRUBS BITING AT YOUR FINGERS...



"SOMETIMES, IT'S
LIKE DANCING..."

"...BUT ALWAYS, IT
REMINDS ME OF HOME.
AND MY FATHER."

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

JOE KELLY OF
MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS

Story

MICHAEL
GAYDOS

Art

Part
of
1
4

EDGAR AT STUDIO F
COMICRAFT

Colors
Lettering



An
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Production



"HAITI WAS DYING,
STRANGLING IN
THE GRIP OF THE
DUVALIERS...

"YET, JUST
TWENTY-FIVE
MILES OUT OF
PORT-AU-PRINCE...
MY VILLAGE WAS
UNTOUCHED.



"MOST SAID THAT WE LIVED UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF THE OLD WAYS. TRUE BELIEVERS
AND HONORED SERVANTS OF THE LOA...

"BUT MANY COUNTRYMEN HAD DIED
SCREAMING WITH THE NAMES OF
THE OLD ONES ON THEIR TONGUES...
IT WAS NOT JUST FAITH...




"IT WAS MY
FATHER.

"THE HOUNGAN. THE
PRIEST. MY FATHER
WAS *SPECIAL*.



"IT WAS WHISPERED AROUND OUR
VILLAGE THAT MANY HAD BEEN CHOSEN
BY THE LOA FOR SACRIFICE AND GRACE...


"...BUT GUILLAME WAS
THE ONLY HOUNGAN
WHOM THEY TRULY
LOVED."



"THOUGH NO ONE, GOD OR MAN, COULD HAVE LOVED HIM MORE THAN I DID."




BOY.
I'M HUNGRY.



HE SHOULD BE PRESIDENT OF HAITI! PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.!

ARE YOU GOING TO TALK ABOUT MY FATHER ALL DAY? YOU'LL SCARE THE FISH.

HOW CAN YOU BE LIKE THAT? YOU'VE SEEN OTHER HOUNGUN...



THAT FAT MOLO IN PIERRE JUST SPITS AND SHAKES AND WOMEN LAUGH AT HIM... BUT YOUR FATHER...

REAL POWERS. ADMIT IT. YOU KNOW HE'S SPECIAL.

YES. HE IS.



KRAKK

WH-WHAT WAS THAT?

"TONTON MACOUTES."



"TONTON MACOLTES.
THE 'BOOGEYMEN.'

"DIVALIER'S PRIVATE MILITIA.
MURDERERS. RAPISTS.
TORTURERS. MONSTERS
IN HUMAN SKINS."

I'LL ASK
AGAIN. WHERE
IS THE ONE
CALLED
GUILLAME?

OR DO
I MOVE FROM
PIGS ON FOUR
LEGS... TO PIGS
ON TWO?



"IT WAS COMMON FOR
THE TONTON MACOLTES
TO COME FOR POPULAR
LEADERS LIKE MY FATHER..."

NO!
GUILLAME,
THEY'LL--

I WALK
WITH LEGBA
AND OGIN.
I LAY WITH
SAMARA AND
DELUN...



"...BUT NEVER MY VILLAGE.
MY FATHER NEVER LET
THEM GET CLOSE ENOUGH.

I AM
BLISS AND
I AM HORROR
AND YOU, MY
FRIEND...

...HAVE
MADE
A TERRIBLE
MISTAKE.



I...GUH...
M-MOTHER
...?

GLARRRGGH

≡NNNNGH≡

"BLISS AND HORROR.
MY FATHER'S TOOLS.
MY FATHER'S GIFT."



FATHER!!

"BUT IMAGINE HIS HORROR... WHEN THOSE GIFTS FAILED HIM..."



?

"...BECAUSE OF ME."



PLAY TRICKS ON ME?!



YOU...WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?!



WHAT DID YOU DO?!

To Be Continued...



HEROES

CHAPTER 36

It Takes a Village

Part 2 of 4

As a young boy, the Haitian grew up idolizing his father, Guillame, a powerful spiritual leader. Guillame led his people to stand up against the Tonton Macoutes, the vicious and corrupt Haitian militia. Wielding a powerful mental attack, Guillame defended his people and was their hero... until the Haitian's own abilities became active...

"IT HAD BEEN ALMOST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS SINCE THE 'BOOGEYMEN' LEFT..."

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Part
2 of
4

"...SINCE MY FATHER'S POWER FAILED OUR VILLAGE, AND THE TONTON MACOLITES DID AS THEY PLEASED WITH OUR GOODS, OUR MONEY, OUR WOMEN.

"TWENTY FOUR HOURS SINCE THEY HUNG HIM UP LIKE MEAT, AND NO MAN, WOMAN...OR CHILD HAD MOVED TO CUT HIM DOWN.

"NOT EVEN HIS OWN SON.

"THIS WAS HIS PUNISHMENT FOR FAILING TO PROTECT US. FOR 'BETRAYING THE LOA'..."

"SAVAGE AS THE ATTACK ON MY VILLAGE AND MY FATHER HAD BEEN...ONLY ONE THING ABOUT THAT DAY STILL CHILLS MY BLOOD..."

JOE KELLY OF MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS

Story

STAZ JOHNSON

Art

CHRIS SOTOMAYOR

Colors

COMICRAFT

Lettering

An INVISIBLE COLLEGE Production

"... THE WAY HE LOOKED AT ME."



"WHERE I AM FROM, THE VICTIM IS NOT ONE TO BE PITIED... HE IS WEAK."

"HE IS TO BE REVILED. IF HE WERE NOT, AND THE LOA WERE WITH HIM..."

"HE NEVER WOULD HAVE BECOME A VICTIM IN THE FIRST PLACE."

I MUST SHOW THEM, THAT THEIR GUILLAME STILL WALKS WITH THE LOA ON HIS BACK.

YES, FATHER...

I WILL MAKE A SACRIFICE TO OGLIN. TO LEGBA.



AND THEY WILL SEE... MY POWER WILL RETURN. STRONGER THAN BEFORE.

YES, FATHER. TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT AND I--



YOU WILL NOT BE THERE, BOY. YOU WILL NOT BE ANYWHERE NEAR ME...

OR I WILL KILL YOU.

WH-WHY?

SAY YOU UNDERSTAND.

"OF COURSE I DID NOT. I KNEW ONLY THAT THE GOD-MAN I LOVED SO DEEPLY WAS IN PAIN... AND I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO HELP HIM."

THIS IS BAD. DO YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN--?

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE..?

SHUT UP, YOU'RE MAKING IT NERVOUS.



I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT CRY.

IT WON'T --

YOU HAVE TO CUT DEEP --

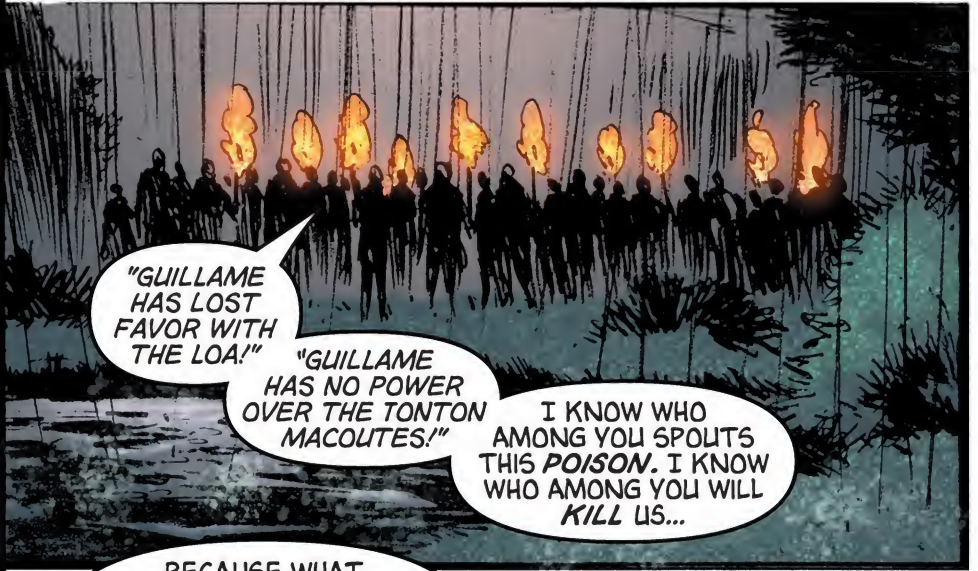
BE QUIET OR I'LL CUT YOU.

...I UNDERSTAND.



PLEASE. GIVE HIM THE STRENGTH HE NEEDS...

...MAKE HIM WHOLE AGAIN.



"GUILLAME HAS LOST FAVOR WITH THE LOA!"

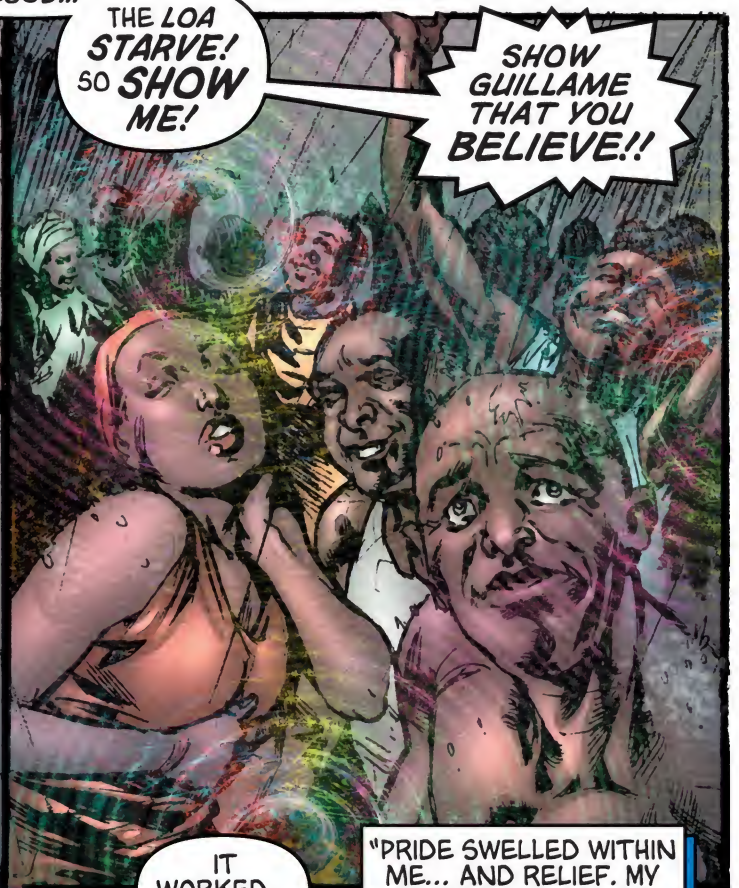
"GUILLAME HAS NO POWER OVER THE TONTON MACOUTES!"

I KNOW WHO AMONG YOU SPOUTS THIS POISON. I KNOW WHO AMONG YOU WILL KILL US...

BECAUSE WHAT GOOD IS A HOWNGAN WHO LEADS A FLOCK WITHOUT FAITH?! YOU ARE THE BLOOD THAT BEATS THROUGH MY HEART! WITHOUT THAT BLOOD...

THE LOA STARVE! SO SHOW ME!

SHOW GUILLAME THAT YOU BELIEVE!!



IT WORKED... YOU SEE!

"PRIDE SWELLED WITHIN ME... AND RELIEF. MY FATHER WOULD LEAD AGAIN. HE WOULD FIND THE MEN WHO HAD WRONGED US AND MAKE THEM SUFFER..."



"AND I WOULD BE BY HIS SIDE."



"BUT THEN..."

"THOSE CHILDISH HOPES DIED..."

WHY ARE WE...

THE SPIRITS LEAVE US...

GUILLAME IS A FRAUD!



YOU!
WHY BOY?!
WHY DID YOU COME!?

"HE KNEW. WHETHER IT WAS INSTINCT, OR THE WHISPER OF LEGBA IN HIS EAR, HE KNEW TO HIS BONES..."



"...SOMEHOW... I TOOK HIS POWER AWAY."

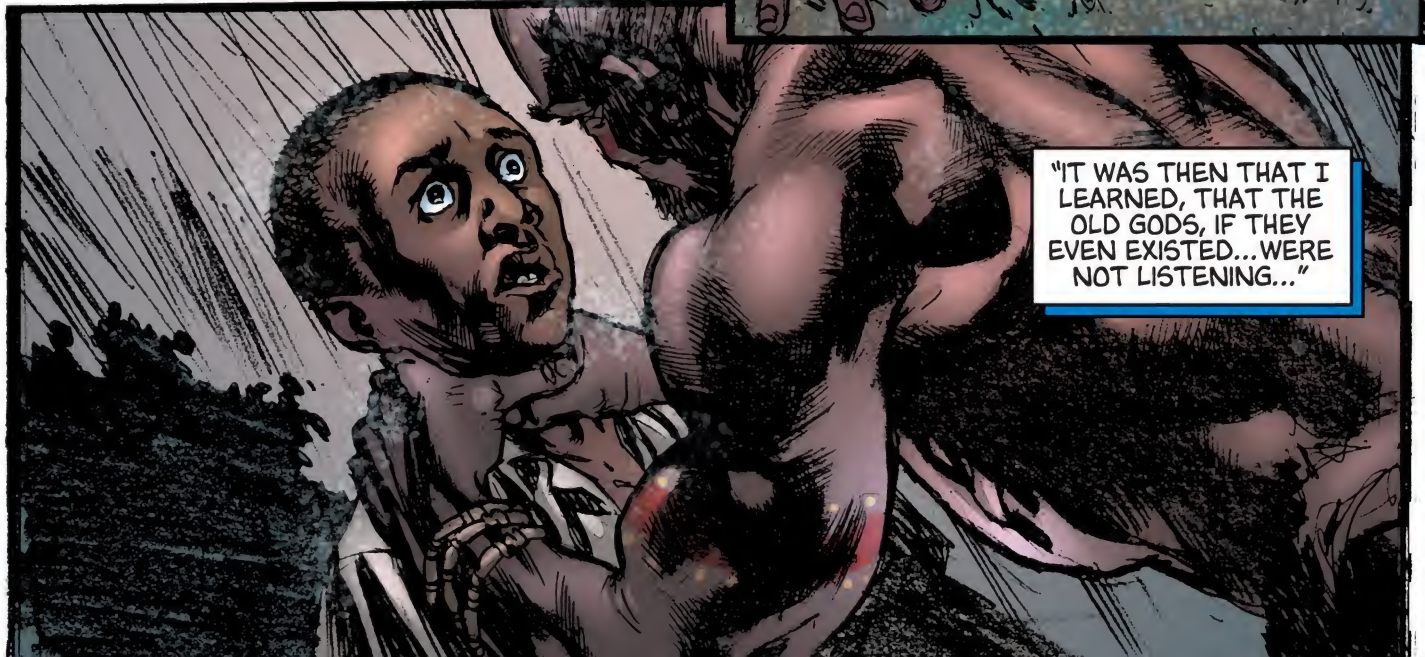
"HE KNEW I WAS TO BLAME."

"I HAVE NEVER FELT SUCH SHAME."

"AND I PRAYED WITH EACH HAMMER FALL OF HIS FISTS..."



"... THAT MY NECK WOULD BREAK."



"IT WAS THEN THAT I LEARNED, THAT THE OLD GODS, IF THEY EVEN EXISTED... WERE NOT LISTENING..."



"MY SHAME. MY FEAR.
MY LOVE FOR MY
FATHER... LEAPT
FROM ME... LIKE
FINGERS... NO...

"...LIKE
MACHETES...

"SLASHING CARELESSLY
THROUGH THE SOFT
EVERYTHING AROUND THEM.

"LEAVING
NOTHING.

"NOTHING BUT
EMPTY SHELLS."



To Be Continued...



HEROES

CHAPTER 37

It Takes a Village

Part 3 of 4

Guillame has used both his influence as a spiritual leader and his mysterious powers to defend his people against the corrupt forces of the Tonton Macoutes... until the day his powers failed him. Despite a shameful defeat, Guillame manages to inspire his people again. Unfortunately, as a child, the mysterious Haitian didn't realize he was behind his father's downfall...

"WE WALKED.
THREE DAYS.

"CARRYING
NOTHING...

"...BUT THE BURDEN
OF THAT NIGHT."

WH-WHAT'S
HAPPENING...?
FATHER?

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THEM?

"I KNEW IT WAS
A DESPERATE,
STUPID
QUESTION EVEN
AS IT PASSED
MY LIPS.

"I HAPPENED
TO THEM.

STOP IT!
STOP IT AND SAY
SOMETHING!

SAY
SOMETHING!

"SOMETHING INSIDE
ME, LASHED OUT
INTO THEIR *MINDS*...
SCRAPING. LIKE
FINGERNAILS THROUGH
THE FLESH OF AN
OVERRIDE MELON.

"SCRAPING."

WE ARE
CURSED. YOU
AND I.

WE
MUST MAKE
AMENDS.



THE
CROSSROADS.

HERE,
WE WILL MAKE
IT RIGHT.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

JOE KELLY OF
MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS

Story

TOM
GRUMMETT

Art

Part
3 of
4

EDGAR AT STUDIO F
COMICRAFT

Colors
Lettering



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REST NOW, BOY. 'TILL DAWN. WHEN THE VEIL BETWEEN WORLDS IS THINNEST.

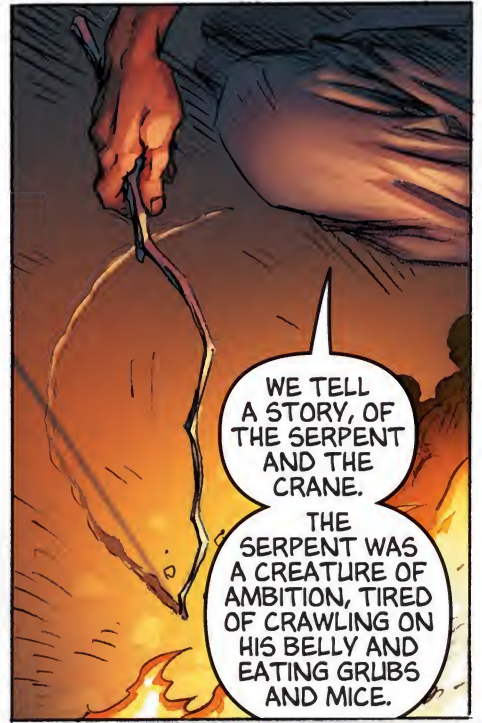
THEN WHAT?

...



DO YOU HATE ME?

...



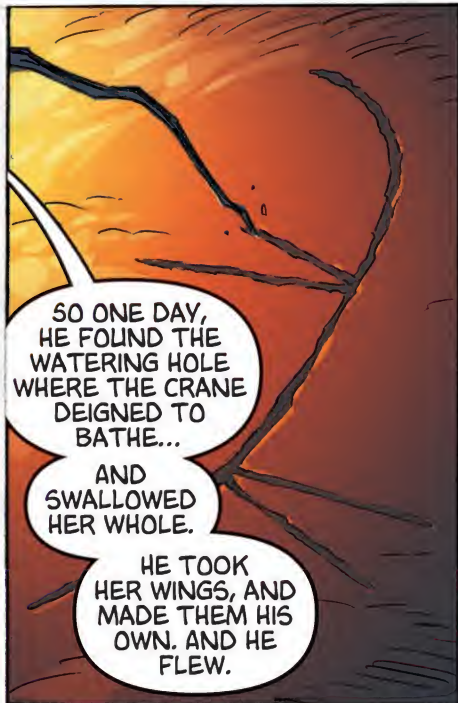
WE TELL A STORY, OF THE SERPENT AND THE CRANE.

THE SERPENT WAS A CREATURE OF AMBITION, TIRED OF CRAWLING ON HIS BELLY AND EATING GRUBS AND MICE.



ONE DAY, HE SPOTTED THE CRANE. CAREFREE. STUPID. BUT SHE COULD FLY. THE SUN SHONE ON HER ALWAYS. SHE SLEPT IN CLOUDS. DRANK FROM RAINBOWS.

"WHAT A WASTE," THOUGHT THE SNAKE. "IF I COULD FLY, THE THINGS I COULD ACCOMPLISH!"



SO ONE DAY, HE FOUND THE WATERING HOLE WHERE THE CRANE DEIGNED TO BATHE...

AND SWALLOWED HER WHOLE.

HE TOOK HER WINGS, AND MADE THEM HIS OWN. AND HE FLEW.



HE FLEW AROUND THE SUN. HE FLEW TO THE MOON. HE ATE THE CLOUDS AND PLAYED IN THE RAIN.

ISN'T THAT GOOD? THAT HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED?

YES. VERY GOOD. VERY IMPORTANT...



BUT WHAT GOOD IS IT TO FLY, IF YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO GO? ONCE HE HAD THE POWER, THE SNAKE LOST TOUCH WITH THE GROUND.

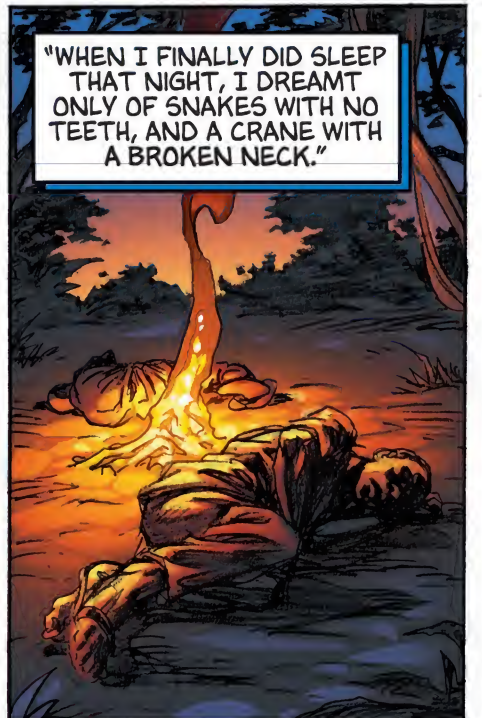


WHEN THE LOA MOUNT ME, I HAVE POWER. I COULD DRIVE MEN TO ECSTASY OR HORROR.

I COULD LEAD, MOVE NATIONS...

...INSTEAD, I GET THEM HIGH AND I SLEEP WITH THEIR WOMEN.

I HAVE FORGOTTEN THE GROUND, AND MUST MAKE PENANCE FOR IT.



"WHEN I FINALLY DID SLEEP THAT NIGHT, I DREAMT ONLY OF SNAKES WITH NO TEETH, AND A CRANE WITH A BROKEN NECK."



"I HAVE SEEN MANY CEREMONIES AT MY FATHER'S SIDE. MET MANY HOUNGAN AND SEEN THE OLD WAYS PRACTICED ACROSS HAITI..."

"...BUT NONE OF IT, NONE OF IT, WAS PETRO. THE DARK WALK. THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES AND 'VOODOO FILMS.'"



"UNTIL THE MOUNTAIN. THE CROSSROADS."

WH-WHAT HAPPENS HERE?



TAKE THE BLADE.

NO. WHY--? FATHER?



TAKE THE BLADE!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



PENANCE.

I FORGOT THE GROUND, SO THE LOA POISONED MY SEED... AND SENT YOU TO PUNISH ME.



N-NO...

REMEMBER THE GROUND. CUT OUT THE POISON...
I WILL FLY AGAIN!

To Be Continued...




HEROES

CHAPTER 38

It Takes a Village

Part 4 of 4

As a youth, the Haitian looked up to his father, Guillame. Guillame protected their village from the corrupt government forces of the Tonton Macoute. But Guillame learned that his son might be an even greater threat. He had to make a terrible decision...



"MY FATHER HAD ALWAYS BEEN A MAN OF PASSION. IT WAS WHAT MADE HIM SUCH A POWERFUL HOUNGAN.

"THAT DAY, AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD, WHERE THE REALM OF SPIRITS AND WORLD OF MAN MET IN BLOOD AND SHADOW...

"...HE WAS AS PASSIONATE ABOUT KILLING HIS ONLY SON AS I HAD EVER SEEN HIM. MORE SO.


IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Part
4 of
4

JOE KELLY OF
MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS
Story

STAZ
JOHNSON
Art

EDGAR AT STUDIO F Colors
COMICRAFT Lettering
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I FORGIVE YOU, BOY. KNOW THAT. I FORGIVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE...

...SO YOU WILL NOT SUFFER.



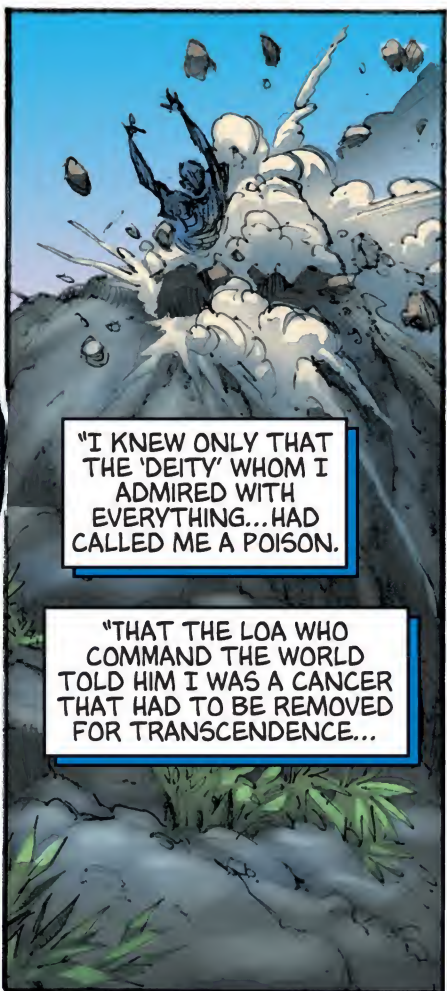
"AND THAT PASSION HAD BEEN REWARDED. MY FATHER'S POWERS HAD RETURNED."

FATHER... NO... PLEASE...



"I KNEW NOTHING THEN OF GENETICS. OF BIO-CHEMICAL ABERRANCE.

"OR HOW SHAME COULD CRIPPLE *MY OWN* ABILITIES...



"I KNEW ONLY THAT THE 'DEITY' WHOM I ADMIRER WITH EVERYTHING...HAD CALLED ME A POISON.

"THAT THE LOA WHO COMMAND THE WORLD TOLD HIM I WAS A CANCER THAT HAD TO BE REMOVED FOR TRANSCENDENCE...



"AND IF MY DEATH WOULD HEAL HIM... GIVE HIM PEACE...



"...I WOULD DIE FOR HIM. WITH PRIDE.



"BUT I WAS STILL A BOY... AND I COULD NOT LEAVE MY FATHER WITHOUT ONE LAST TOUCH."



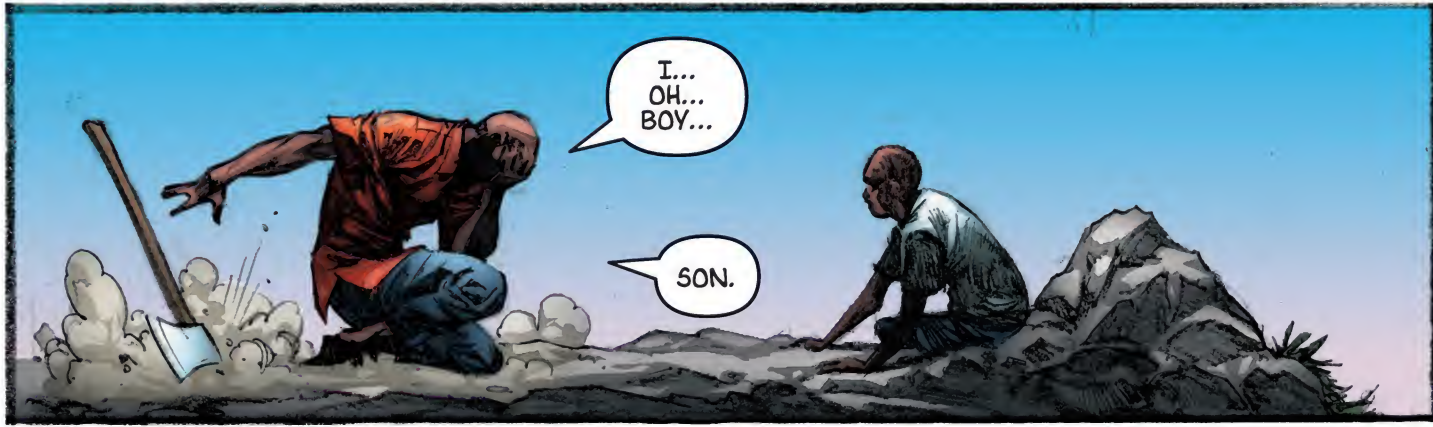
"I BECAME ONE WITH MY FATHERS' MIND, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, SAW HIM -- NOT AS A GOD, OR A PRIEST..."

"...BUT AS A MAN."

"A MAN WHO LOVED HIS SON, THOUGH IT DID NOT SHOW FOR FEAR IT WOULD MAKE HIM LOOK WEAK..."

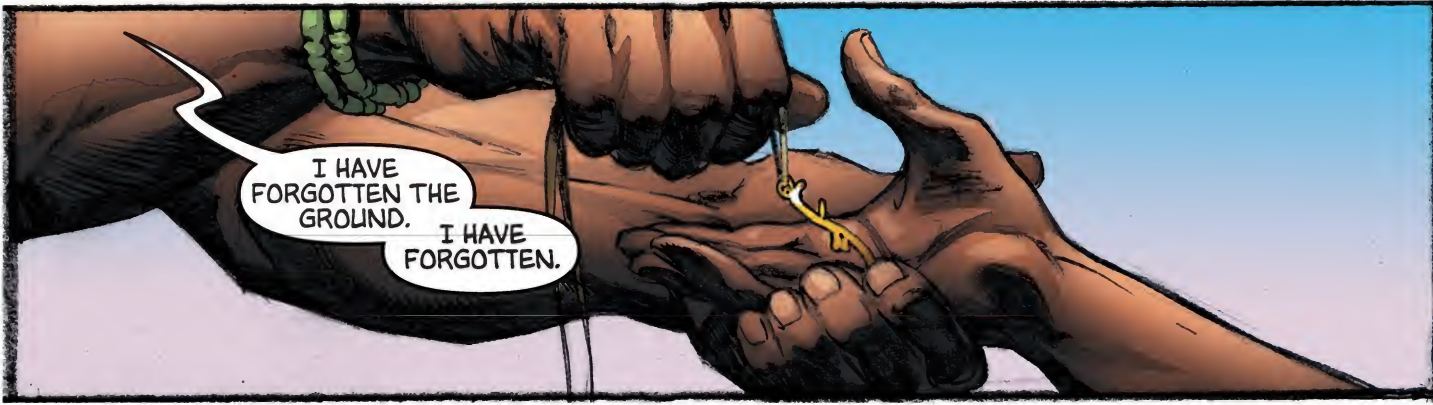
"MEMORIES, MOMENTS, HIDDEN LIKE JEWELS SCATTERED IN A MUDDY FIELD. BUT I COULD FIND THEM."

"I COULD FIND THEM AND SHOW THEM TO HIM, IN ALL OF THEIR RADIANCE."



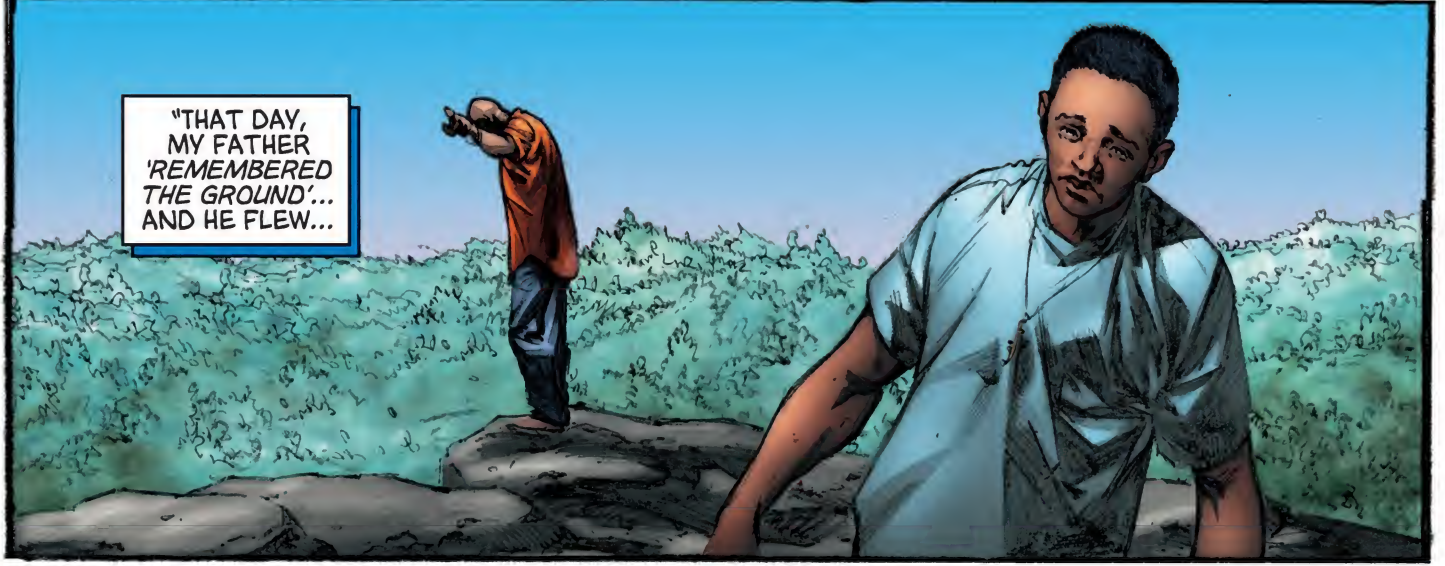
I... OH... BOY...

SON.

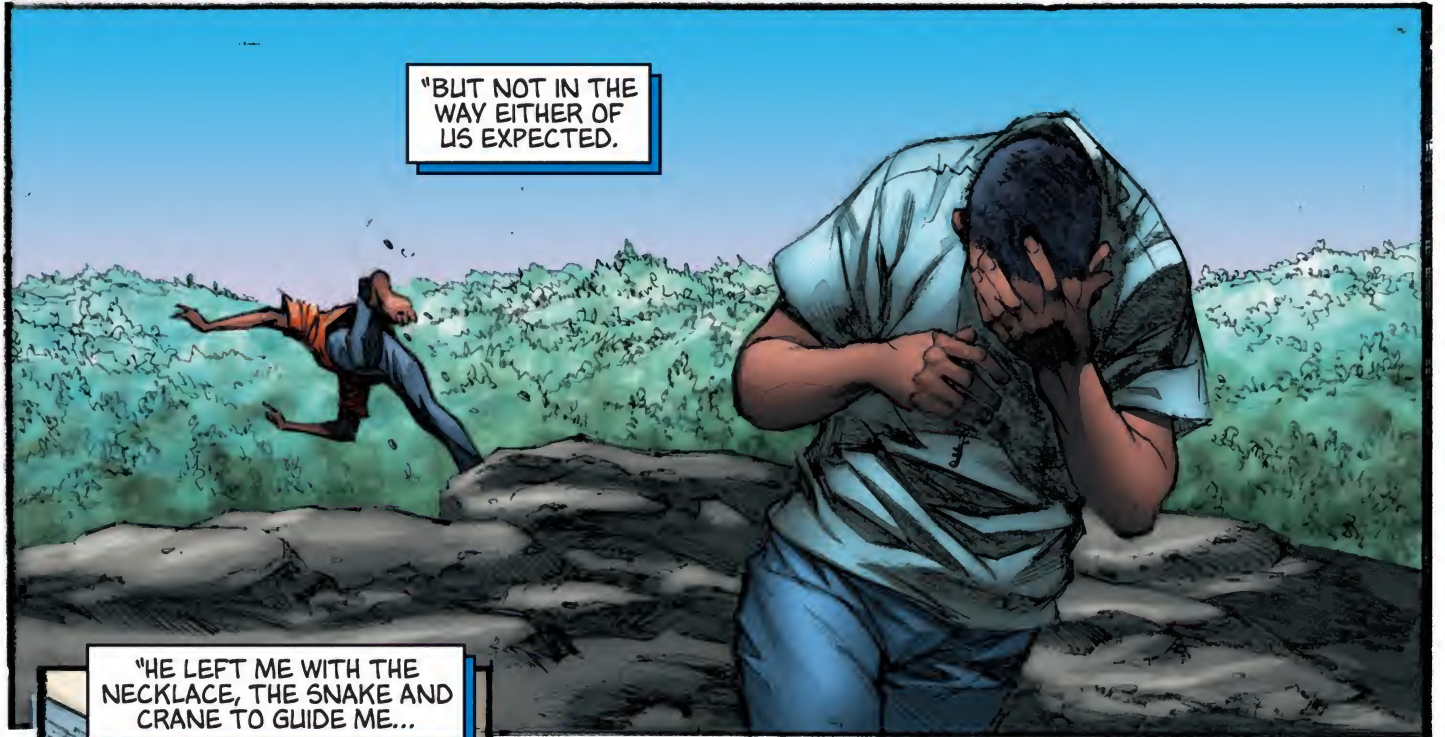


I HAVE FORGOTTEN THE GROUND. I HAVE FORGOTTEN.

"THAT DAY,
MY FATHER
'REMEMBERED
THE GROUND'...
AND HE FLEW..."



"BUT NOT IN THE
WAY EITHER OF
US EXPECTED."



"HE LEFT ME WITH THE
NECKLACE, THE SNAKE AND
CRANE TO GUIDE ME..."



"...AND A FINAL
COMMAND..."





"GIVE PEACE TO THOSE I HAVE FORSAKEN. BURY MY SHAME WITH YOUR OWN HANDS..."

"...SO WHEN THE CRANE COMES TO YOU WITH THE PROMISE OF SUN AND CLOUDS..."



"...YOU NEVER FORGET THE GROUND."

"NEVER FORGET."



"I WANTED TO PUT BACK THAT WHICH I HAD TAKEN...BUT IT WASN'T POSSIBLE."

WHAT HAPPENED HERE...?

"GONE WAS GONE. I SAW NO ALTERNATIVE... BUT TO LITERALLY BURY OUR SHAME --"

DID GUILLAME DO THIS...? I'M LOOKING FOR GUILLAME.

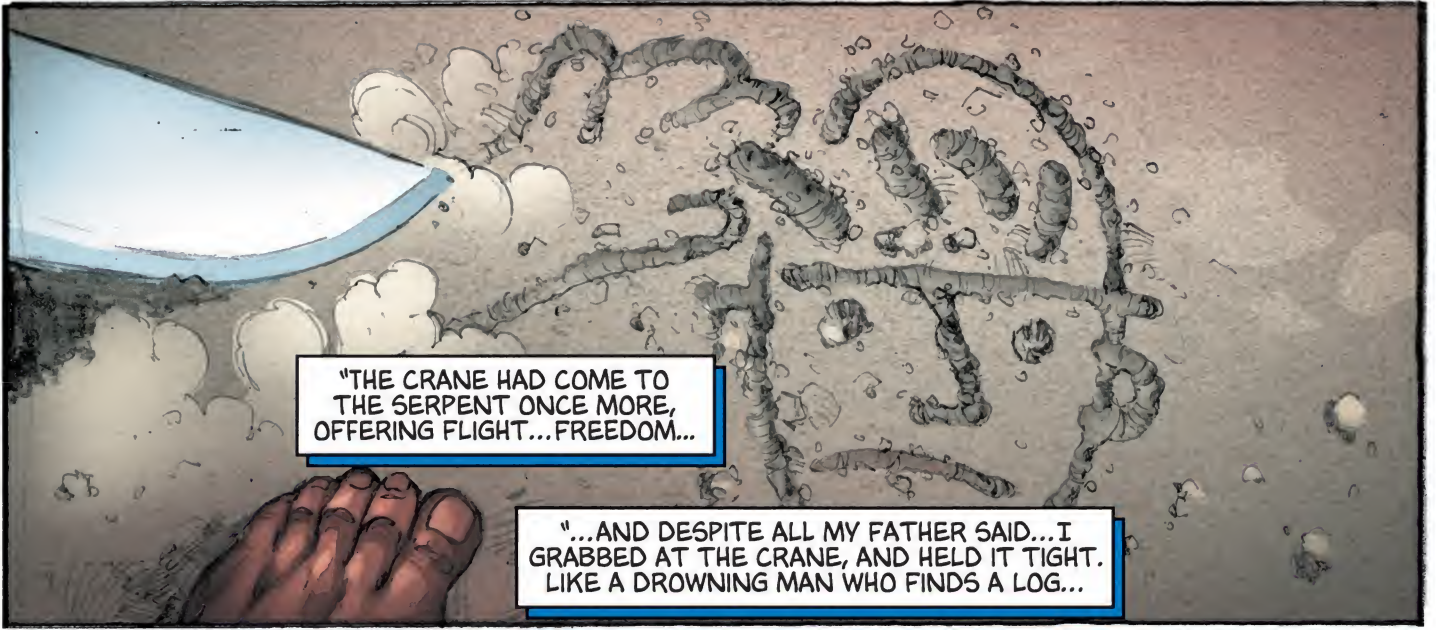


DID YOU DO THIS..?

...

ARE YOU... SPECIAL?

...



"THE CRANE HAD COME TO THE SERPENT ONCE MORE, OFFERING FLIGHT... FREEDOM..."

"...AND DESPITE ALL MY FATHER SAID... I GRABBED AT THE CRANE, AND HELD IT TIGHT. LIKE A DROWNING MAN WHO FINDS A LOG..."



LIKE FATHER LIKE SON?

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU. ALL OF YOU. IF YOU LET ME..?



"BUT EVEN THOUGH I FLEW THAT DAY, BEYOND THE VILLAGE, BEYOND THE WORLD..."



"...I NEVER FLEW BEYOND THE SHADOW CAST BY MY FATHER, OR THE WHISPER OF HIS LAST WISH."

MY NAME'S MISTER THOMPSON.

"NEVER FORGET. NEVER FORGET."

The End



HEROES

CHAPTER 39

BETTY

Part 1 of 4

High school is about education, but what one learns often goes far beyond academics. With cliques and the desire to fit in, the social pressures can be stressful, sometimes overwhelming. But for those gifted with extraordinary abilities, a little advantage goes a long way...

Betty

Part 1 of 4

JOE CASEY OF MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS

Story

RYAN ODAGAWA

Art

JOHN STARR COMICRAFT

Colors

Lettering

An ASPEN MLT INC. Production

NOT LONG AGO...

I HATE MY NAME.

I'D LOVE TO JUST CHANGE IT. GET A NEW ONE.

I HATE THIS PLACE. TOO MANY FAKES.

MOST OF THEM THINK THEY'RE BETTER THAN ME.

SEEMS LIKE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY...

...DID YOU SEE WHAT SHE WAS WEARING IN CHEM CLASS? SO LAST YEAR...!

NO DOUBT. BUT AT LEAST SHE'S GOT THE GHOST OF FASHION SENSE PAST...

...AND THERE'S NO ESCAPE.

HOW 'BOUT THAT NEW GIRL... WHAT'S HER NAME...?

BETTY SOMETHING...

OH, TOTALLY! Y'KNOW, SHE'S NOT THAT NEW, THOUGH. BEEN HERE SINCE LAST YEAR...

WHO CARES?! SHE'S COMPLETELY DISGUSTING.

HANGS WITH THE RESIN CROWD...

WHATEVER... SHE'S IN SERIOUS NEED OF DIET AND EXERCISE.

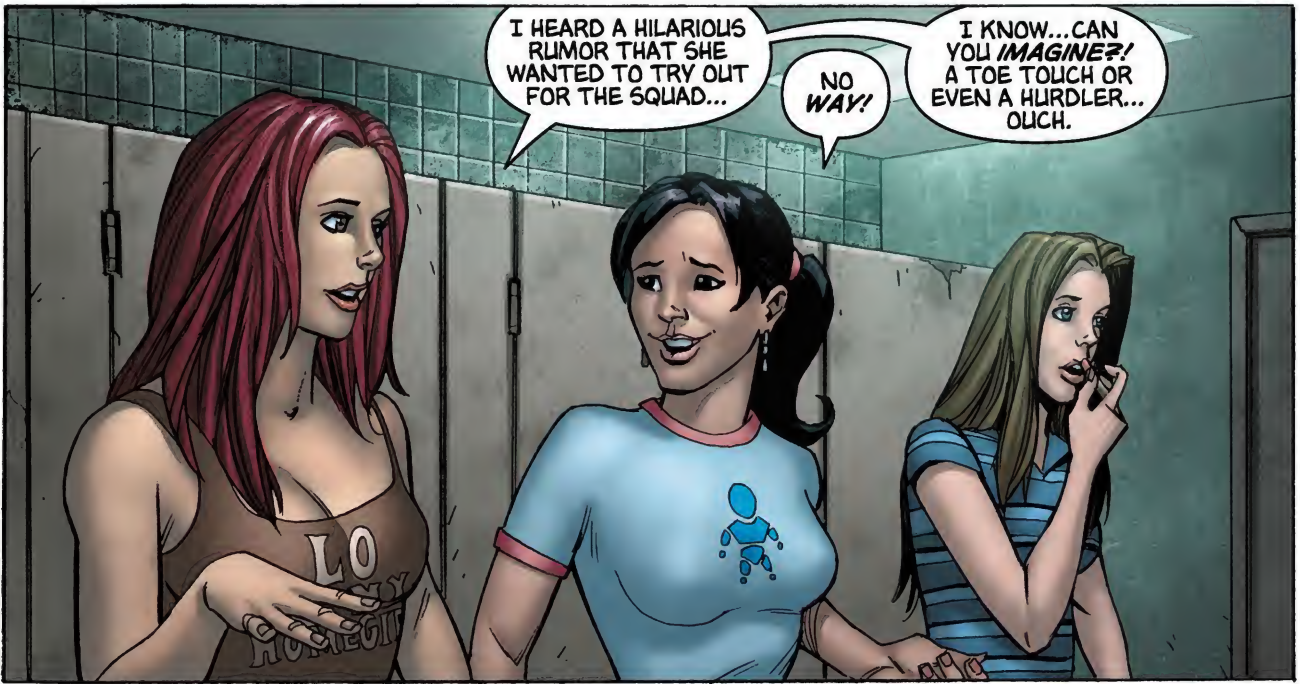
EXTREME MAKEOVER REJECT...

TOTAL BETTY... THERE'S THE NEW TERM FOR LOSER...

...LOSER OF THE WORST KIND...

Mouse wuz here

'BETTY'. SEE... THAT'S WHY I HATE MY NAME.



I HEARD A HILARIOUS RUMOR THAT SHE WANTED TO TRY OUT FOR THE SQUAD...

NO WAY!

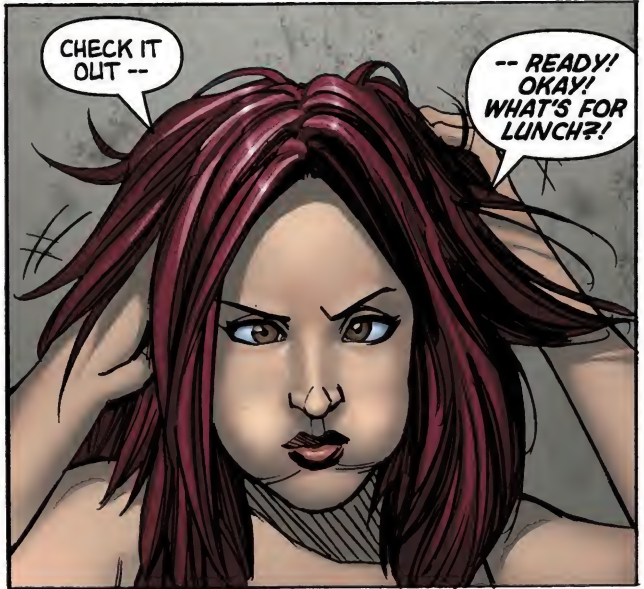
I KNOW...CAN YOU *IMAGINE?*! A TOE TOUCH OR EVEN A HURDLER... OUCH.



THINK OF THE PYRAMID...

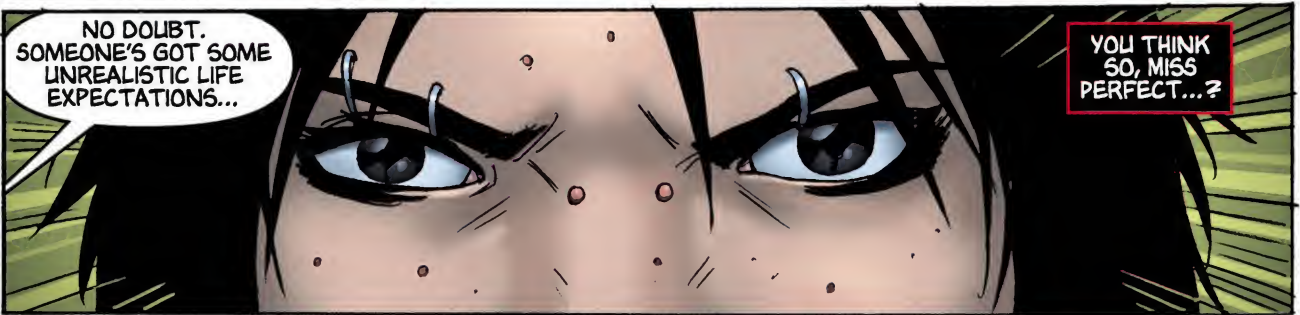
SHE JUST NEEDS TO BE PLT OUT OF HER MISERY. STRAIGHT TO THE GLUE FACTORY...

I WONDER IF THEY'D BE ANY DIFFERENT IF THEY KNEW I WAS HERE...



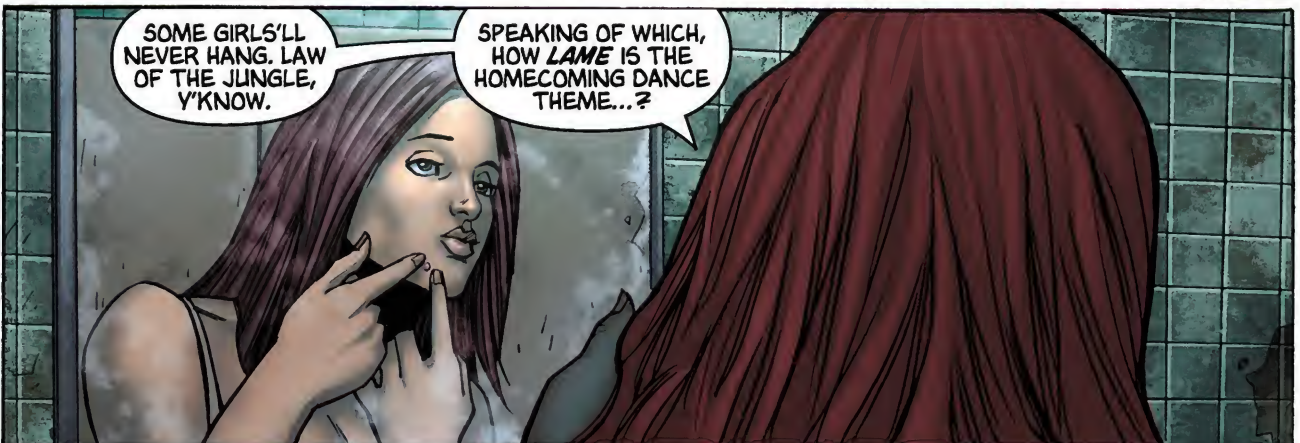
CHECK IT OUT --

-- READY! OKAY! WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?!



NO DOUBT. SOMEONE'S GOT SOME UNREALISTIC LIFE EXPECTATIONS...

YOU THINK SO, MISS PERFECT...?



SOME GIRLS'LL NEVER HANG. LAW OF THE JUNGLE, Y'KNOW.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, HOW *LAME* IS THE HOMECOMING DANCE THEME...?



BEYOND LAME. MISS PRICHER THINKS, Y'KNOW, IT'S GENIUS.

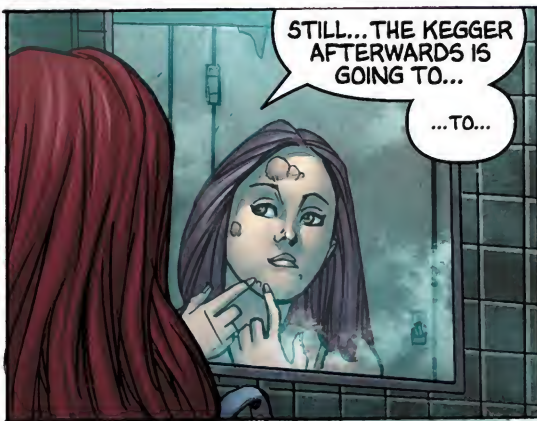
PRICHER'S LAME.

SO UNTOUCHABLE...



... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE...

... TO BE SO...



STILL... THE KEGGER AFTERWARDS IS GOING TO...

... TO...



OMIGOD...!

WHAT THE HELL?!



AAHHH...
... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!



AAAAHHH!

LO IS MY HOME



OH, GHAAAD--!

SOMEBODY CALL SOMEONE --



WAIT, WAIT, WAIT... LOOK....

YOUR FACE... IT'S...

I'M... I-I'M OKAY...?

BUT... I MEAN... WHAT JUST...?



HUH. NOT SO PERFECT. NOT SO UNTOUCHABLE.

ALL I DID WAS... JUST IMAGINE THAT SHE...



OH GOD. DID I... DO THAT? DID I MAKE THAT HAPPEN...?



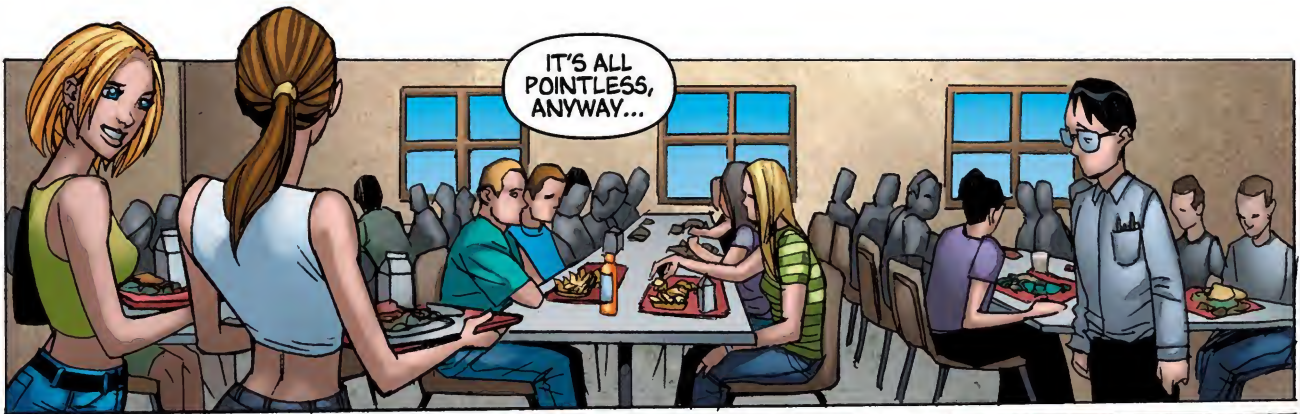
YEAH...

...I DID THAT.



TOTAL BETTY, HUH...?

WE'LL SEE.



IT'S ALL POINTLESS, ANYWAY...

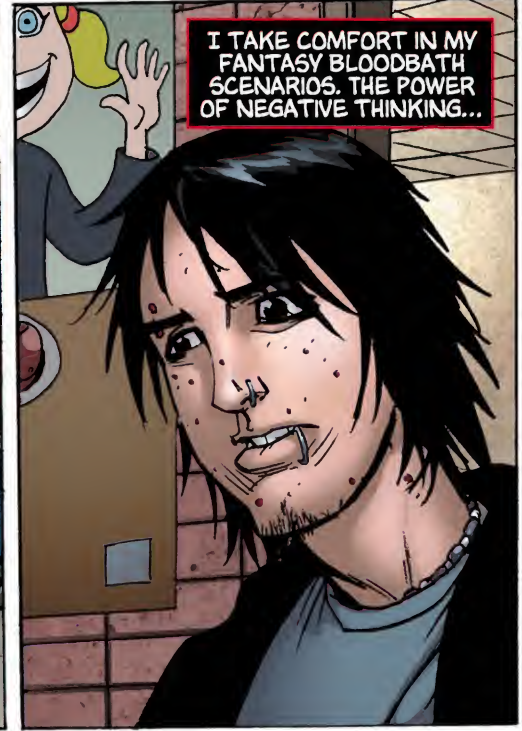


... THESE STUPID SCHOOL RITUALS. PEP RALLIES.

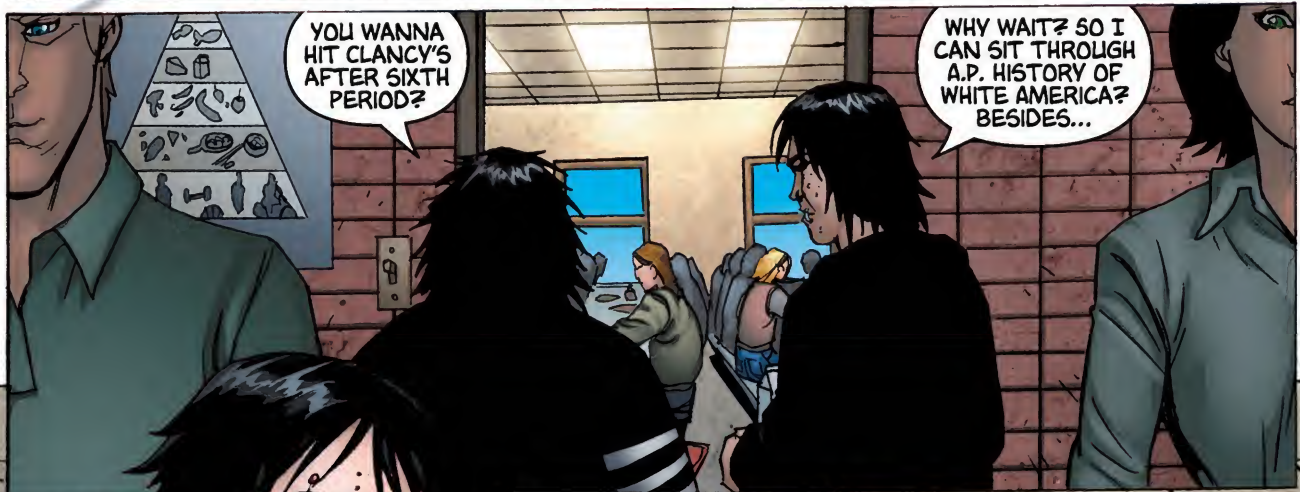
HOMECOMING DANCES. LIKE SHEEP LED TO THE SLAUGHTER.

MY FRIEND, *REN*, IS AS CLOSE AS IT GETS WHEN IT COMES TO *RELATABILITY*.

HE GETS IT.



I TAKE COMFORT IN MY FANTASY BLOODBATH SCENARIOS. THE POWER OF NEGATIVE THINKING...



YOU WANNA HIT CLANCY'S AFTER SIXTH PERIOD?

WHY WAIT? SO I CAN SIT THROUGH A.P. HISTORY OF WHITE AMERICA? BESIDES...

... IT BEATS HAVING TO WALK THE LUNCHROOM GAUNTLET YET AGAIN.





IT'S LIKE THIS EVERY DAY. WE'RE THE LUNCHTIME FREAKSHOW...

WATCH YER STEP, BURNOUT--!

HUUHHNN--!

YO... I GIVE IT AN EIGHT.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE MANY TALENTS BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD...

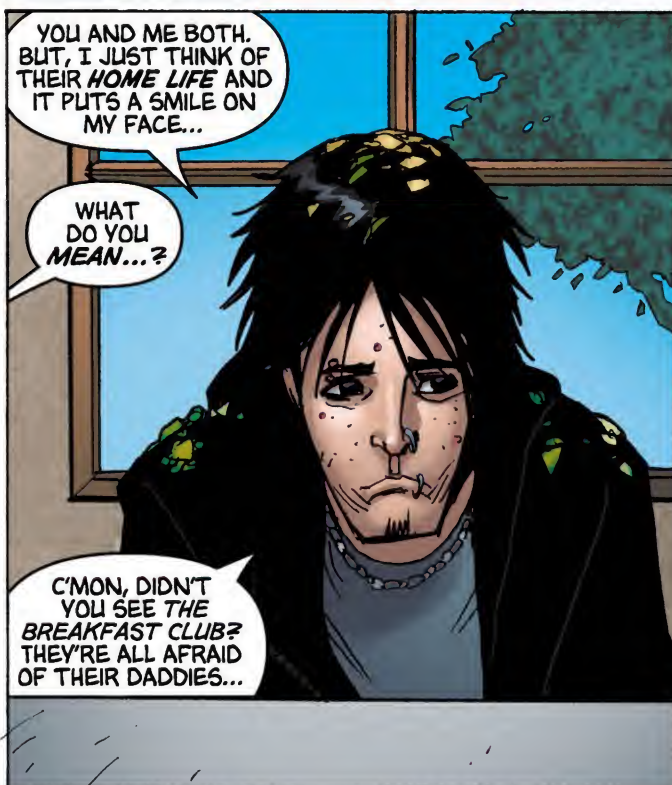
REN'S LEARNED HOW TO BLOCK OUT THE RAIN OF INSULTS. I HAVEN'T.



WELL, THAT SUCKED.

I KNEW IT'D BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I ENDURED SOME PHYSICAL ABUSE.

I REALLY HATE THOSE GUYS...



YOU AND ME BOTH. BUT, I JUST THINK OF THEIR HOME LIFE AND IT PUTS A SMILE ON MY FACE...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

C'MON, DIDN'T YOU SEE THE BREAKFAST CLUB? THEY'RE ALL AFRAID OF THEIR DADDIES...



... THEY'RE SHAKIN' IN THEIR CLEATS WHEN THEY DON'T GET A TOUCHDOWN. THAT MEANS AN AUTOMATIC BEATING AT HOME.

AT LEAST... THAT'S WHAT I'M HOPING...

To Be Continued...



HEROES

CHAPTER 40

BETTY

Part 2 of 4

In what could be any high school across the country, a girl overhears several cheerleaders talking about her: making fun of her weight, her looks and her interests. Only this time is different. This girl is Betty. And she's just found out she can create terrifying images with the power of her mind...



AFTER PRACTICE...

...TOTALLY ATE IT...

...COACH LAID INTO HIM...

...TEN POINT SPREAD, I GUARANTEE IT...

...BLEW OFF THAT HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT...



YOU COMIN', CRASH...?

I'LL CATCH UP, YO. I STILL GOTTA' HIT THE HEAD.



SOMEBODY IN HERE...?



YOU CALL THAT DEFENSE, BOY?!

WHU... WHU...

NO SON OF MINE PLAYS LIKE THAT ON THE FIELD! YOU'RE A DAMN DISGRACE!

D-DAD...

NO--!

Betty

Part
2 of
4

JOE CASEY OF
MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS

Story

JOHN STARR
Colors

COMICRAFT
Lettering

RYAN
ODAGAWA

Art

An ASPEN MLT INC.
Production

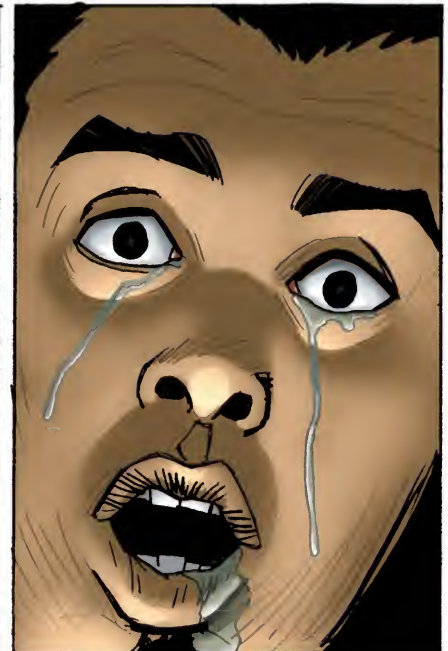
THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR SLACKING OFF --!

ENG--!

-- SHOULD'VE DROWNED YOU AT BIRTH, BOY!

-- BEAT IT OUTTA' YOU --

-- NEVER LOVED YOU ANYWAY --





THE NEXT DAY.

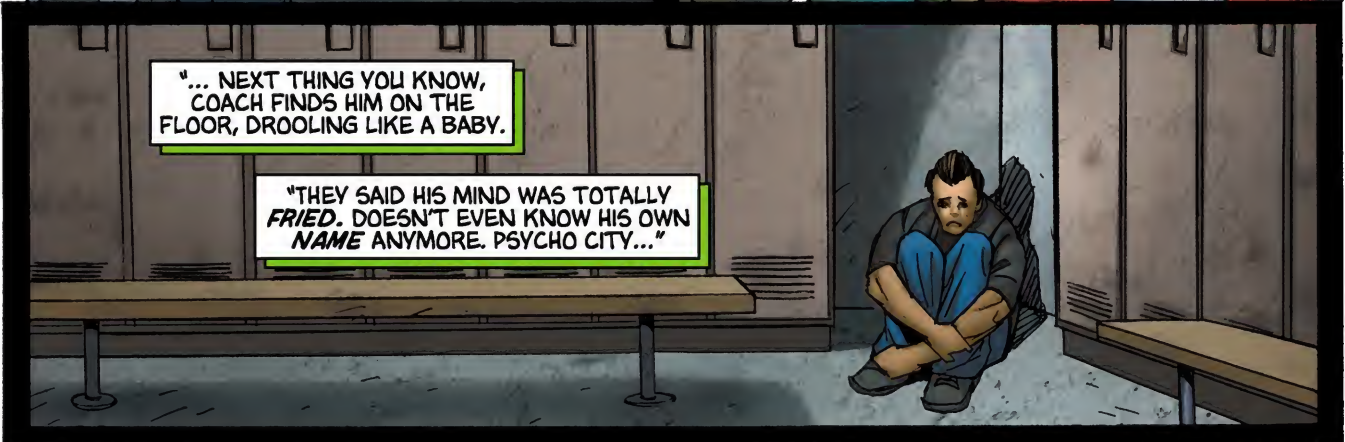


YOU GLYS HEAR ABOUT CRASH --?!

HELL, YEAH, WE HEARD. I CAN'T FIGGER IT OUT, Y'KNOW...



... I MEAN, WE JUST SAW HIM IN THE LOCKER ROOM AFTER PRACTICE. NO BIG DEAL. HE HAD TO HANG BACK...



"... NEXT THING YOU KNOW, COACH FINDS HIM ON THE FLOOR, DROOLING LIKE A BABY.

"THEY SAID HIS MIND WAS TOTALLY FRIED. DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HIS OWN NAME ANYMORE. PSYCHO CITY..."



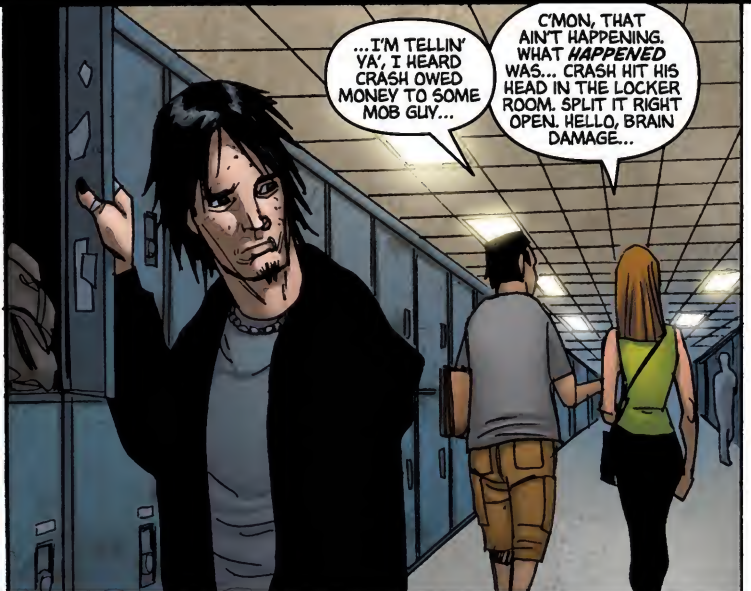
-- HEARD HE WAS TOTALLY COKED OUT --

...BRAIN DEAD...

... HEARD COACH MARBORO KICKED THE CRAP OUT OF HIM FOR GOING OUT OF BOUNDS ON A PLAY...

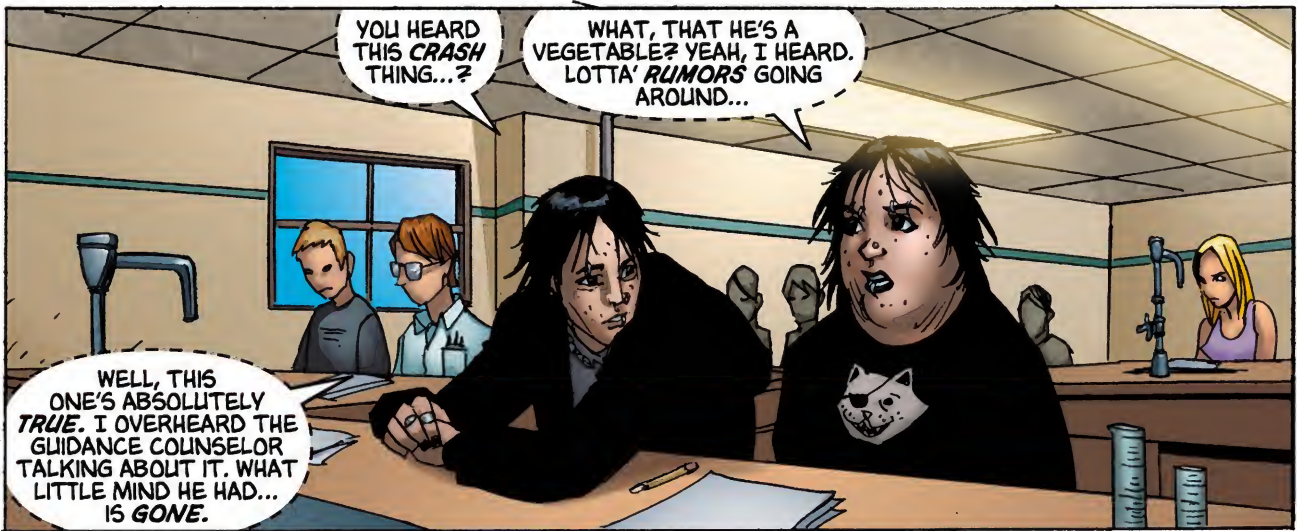
-- MENTAL INSTITUTION --

...COPS CAME DOWN...



... I'M TELLIN' YA, I HEARD CRASH OWED MONEY TO SOME MOB GUY...

C'MON, THAT AIN'T HAPPENING. WHAT HAPPENED WAS... CRASH HIT HIS HEAD IN THE LOCKER ROOM. SPLIT IT RIGHT OPEN. HELLO, BRAIN DAMAGE...



YOU HEARD THIS *CRASH* THING...?

WHAT, THAT HE'S A VEGETABLE? YEAH, I HEARD. LOTTA' *RUMORS* GOING AROUND...

WELL, THIS ONE'S ABSOLUTELY *TRUE*. I OVERHEARD THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR TALKING ABOUT IT. WHAT LITTLE MIND HE HAD... IS *GONE*.



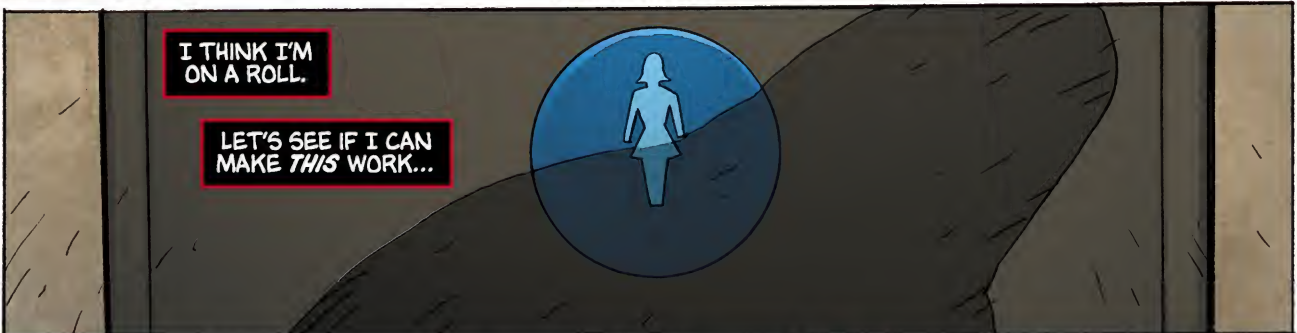
TELL YOU WHAT... COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED TO A MORE DESERVING DIRTBAG.

WHOEVER HAD THE MEANS TO SEND HIS SOUL INTO THE ABYSS HAS MY RESPECT, BIG TIME...



...I'M TALKIN' NATIONAL HERO.

MY HERO, ANYWAY.



I THINK I'M ON A ROLL.

LET'S SEE IF I CAN MAKE *THIS* WORK...



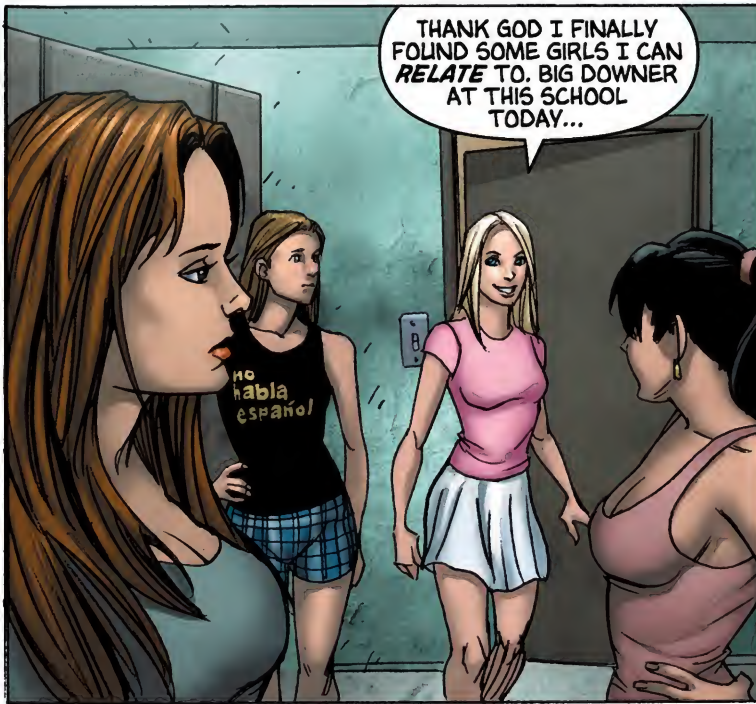
...I DUNNO... CRASH WAS *KINDA*' CUTE. NOT MATTHEW FOX HOT, BUT NOT BAD...

HE ASKED ME TO HOMECOMING, Y'KNOW...

...I NEVER GAVE HIM AN ANSWER.



SO THIS IS THE PLACE, HUH...?



THANK GOD I FINALLY FOUND SOME GIRLS I CAN *RELATE* TO. BIG DOWNER AT THIS SCHOOL TODAY...



UHHH... DUH. ONE OF OUR OFFENSIVE LINE GOT HIS BRAIN SCRAMBLED.

WHO'RE YOU, GIRL? HAVEN'T SEEN *YOUR* STYLISH FACE AROUND...

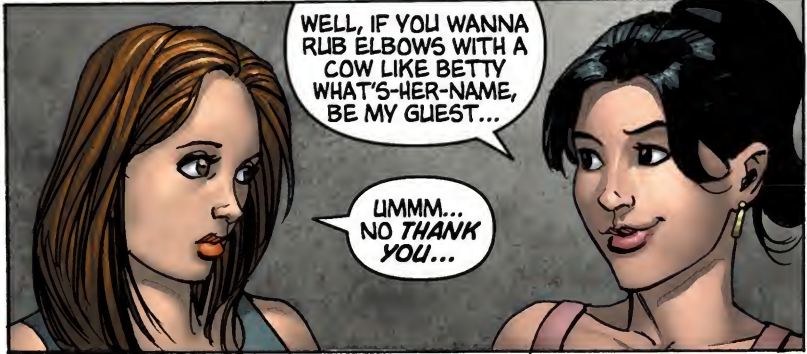
MALLORY. I'M NEW.



SO, I WAS JUST IN THE FRONT OFFICE, GETTING MY SCHEDULE. HOW'S AP ENGLISH AROUND HERE...?

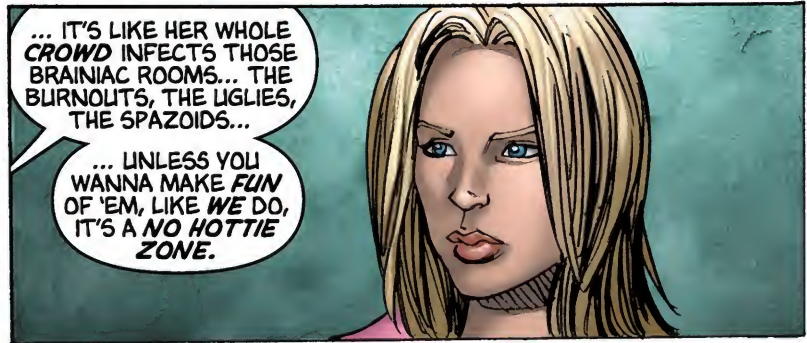
PUH-LEEZE. TOTALLY *NOT* DOPE. HONOR CLASSES ARE CATTLE CENTRAL.

WHU... WHADDYA MEAN...?



WELL, IF YOU WANNA RUB ELBOWS WITH A COW LIKE BETTY WHAT'S-HER-NAME, BE MY GUEST...

UMMM... NO THANK YOU...



... IT'S LIKE HER WHOLE *CROWD* INFECTS THOSE BRAINIAC ROOMS... THE BURNOUTS, THE LIGLIES, THE SPAZOIDS...

... UNLESS YOU WANNA MAKE *FUN* OF 'EM, LIKE *WE* DO, IT'S A *NO HOTTIE* ZONE.



Y'KNOW, YOU'VE GOT SOME RIGHTEOUS GAMS ON YOU, GIRL-FRIEND.

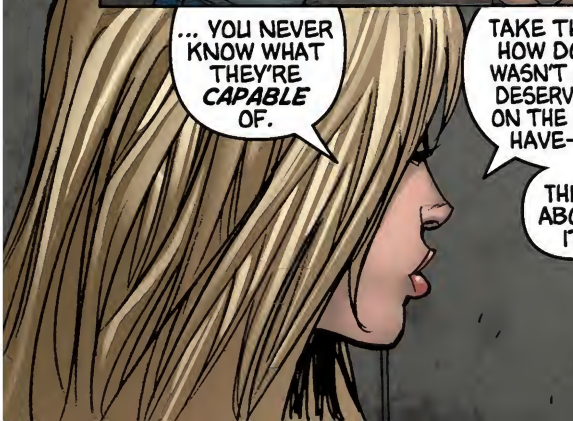
WE MAY HAVE AN OPEN SPOT ON THE SQUAD NEXT MONTH...

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...



I DUNNO... THE WAY YOUR PLAYERS ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES...

SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU MIGHT WANNA WATCH WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THE ALT. CROWD...

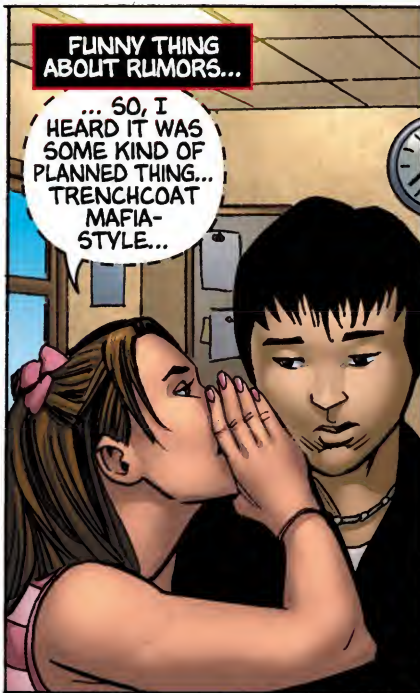


... YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY'RE *CAPABLE* OF.

TAKE THIS CRASH GUY... HOW DO WE KNOW IT WASN'T A LITTLE WELL-DESERVED *REVENGE* ON THE PART OF THE HAVE-NOTS...?

THINK ABOUT IT.





FUNNY THING ABOUT RUMORS...

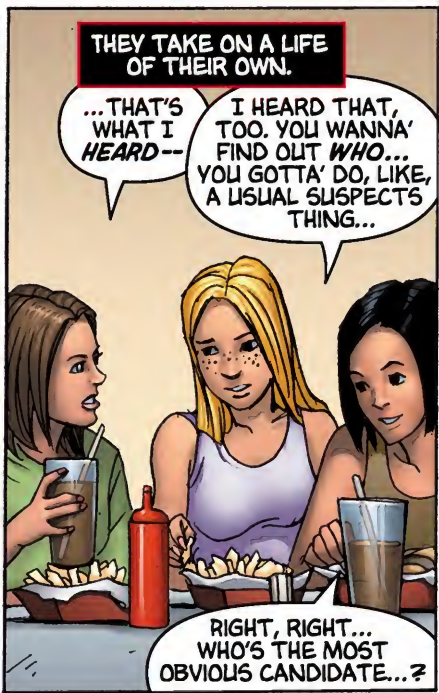
... SO, I HEARD IT WAS SOME KIND OF PLANNED THING... TRENCHCOAT MAFIA-STYLE...



...YOU CAN'T EXACTLY CONTROL THEM.

... TOTAL CLASS WARFARE, I'M TELLIN' YA'. CRASH WAS A TARGET, Y'KNOW...?

WHOA...!

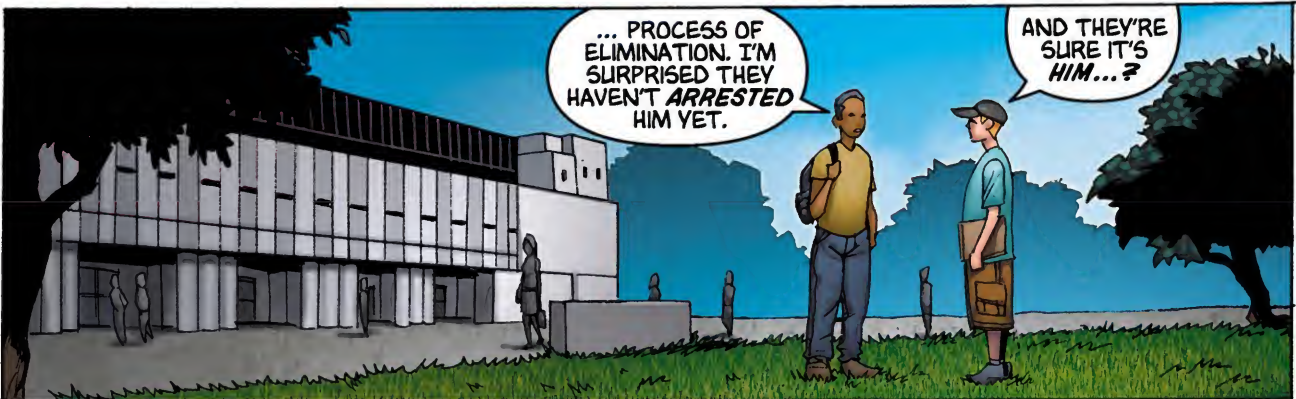


THEY TAKE ON A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.

... THAT'S WHAT I HEARD--

I HEARD THAT, TOO. YOU WANNA' FIND OUT WHO... YOU GOTTA' DO, LIKE, A USUAL SUSPECTS' THING...

RIGHT, RIGHT... WHO'S THE MOST OBVIOUS CANDIDATE...?



... PROCESS OF ELIMINATION. I'M SURPRISED THEY HAVEN'T ARRESTED HIM YET.

AND THEY'RE SURE IT'S HIM...?



...NO WAY. HOW'D HE DO IT?

WHO CARES? I ALWAYS *KNEW* HE WAS SOME KINDA' SATAN WORSHIPPER OR SOMETHING...

DON'T MATTER HOW. CRASH WAS ONE OF US...



... AND IF THIS REN CHLUCKER DID HIM IN, THEN IT'S *PAYBACK* TIME.

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'...?

To Be Continued...



HEROES

CHAPTER 41

BETTY

Part 3 of 4

A social outcast, Betty was teased mercilessly by her fellow high school students. Discovering her power to create illusions, Betty quickly turned the tables on her tormentors, even driving one bully into a state of permanent dementia. She soon learned, however, that her actions would have dire consequences...

Betty

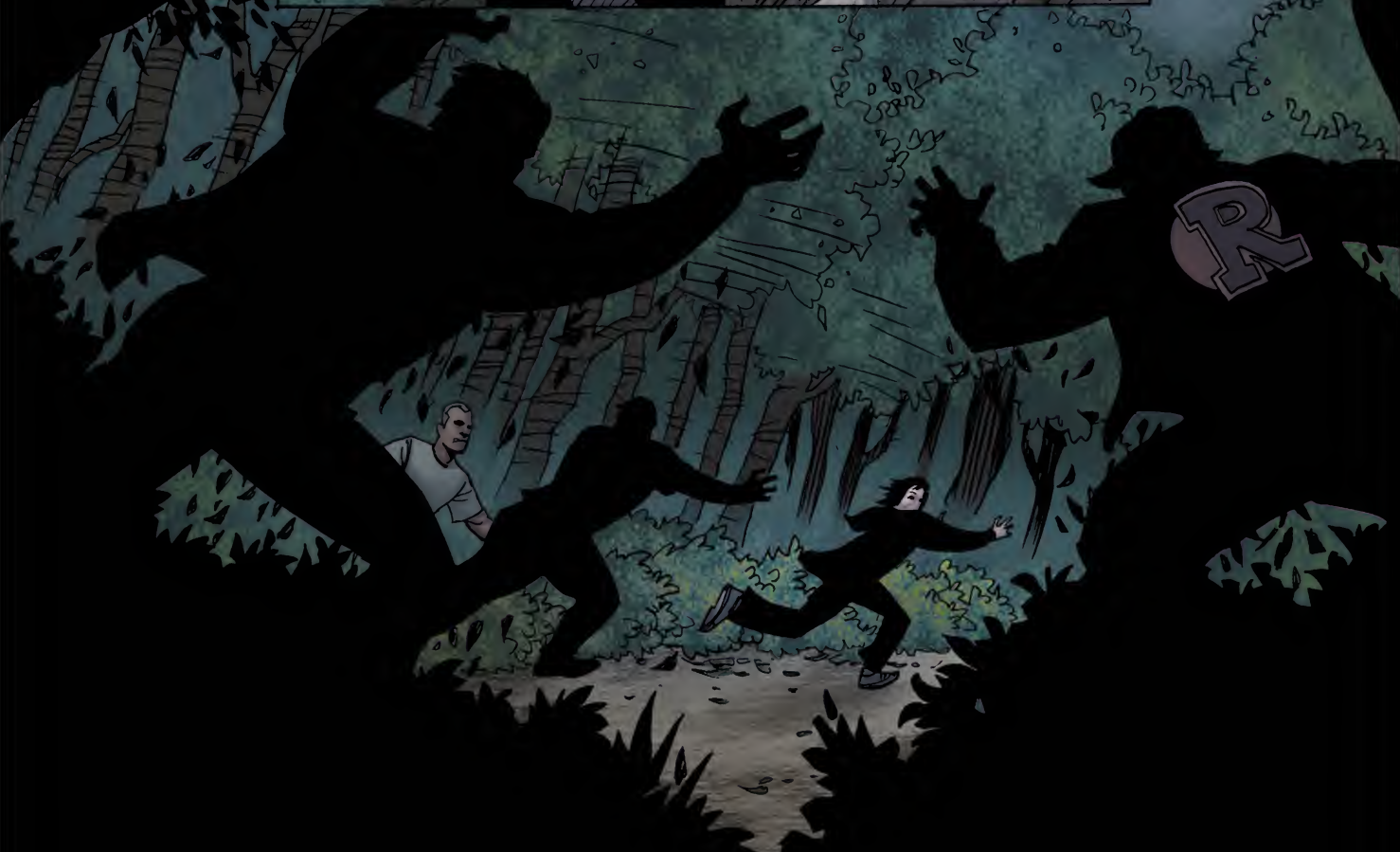
Part
3 of
4

TRYING TO MINGLE
WITH THE BEAUTIFUL
PEOPLE... WHAT WAS
I THINKING...?!

REN'S GOT IT RIGHT.
HE'S JUST *HONEST* WITH
HIMSELF. MORE THAN
ANYONE I KNOW...



**JOE CASEY OF
MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS**
Story
RYAN ODAGAWA
Art
JOHN STARR COMICRAFT
Colors Lettering
An ASPEN MLT INC. Production





'DIS IS WHAT YOU GET--!

FOR CRASH, MAN!

STOMP THIS REJECT!



LOOK AT THE GUILT ON HIS FACE...!

LOOK AT THE BLOOD, DUDE --!

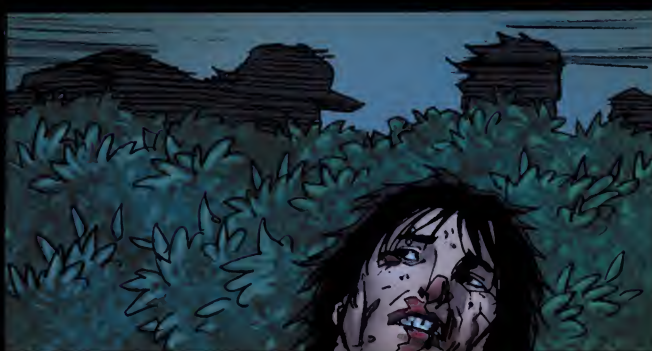


LEMME GET ANOTHER PIECE--!

GUHNE



WHOA--!





I WALKED RIGHT UP OUT OF CLASS WHEN THE TEACHER TOLD US...



...CAME STRAIGHT HERE.

I CAN'T... BELIEVE WHAT THEY DID TO YOU. AND NO ONE KNOWS. THEY'RE DENYING EVERYTHING.



I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, REN. I THINK... THIS IS MY FAULT.

I KNOW YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH CRASH'S... WELL... WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.

KNOW IT FOR A FACT.



A FEW DAYS AGO... I FOUND OUT I COULD DO THINGS. MAKE PEOPLE SEE THINGS. WHATEVER I WANTED THEM TO SEE.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING... BUT IT'S ABSOLUTELY TRUE. I WAS... Y'KNOW... REALLY SCARED AND CONFUSED AT FIRST.

BUT THEN I REALIZED... THE POWER...



I CAN TELL... YOU THINK I'M NUTS. BUT I MADE CRASH SEE SOMETHING... EXPERIENCE SOMETHING THAT SENT HIM OVER THE EDGE.

I CAN MAKE ANYONE THINK THEY'VE SEEN SOMETHING...



CHECK IT OUT...



LISTEN... WHEN YOU GET *OUTTA*' HERE, WE'LL TAKE 'EM ALL ON. EVERY LAST *FAKE* IN THAT SCHOOL.

I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT TO DO. TRUST ME...IT'LL BE *BEAUTIFUL*.



REN...?

WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER...?



REN!

DON'T--!

IT'S ME! IT'S ME!



WHAT THE HELL--?!

CALL DOCTOR STEVENS!



OMIGOD--!

HE'S GOING INTO SHOCK!



WHAT'S HAPPENED--?

VITALS ARE DROPPING -- OH NO --



-- WE'RE LOSING HIM--!

To Be Continued...



HEROES

CHAPTER 42

BETTY

Part 4 of 4

Teased and tormented by her fellow high school students, Betty found a way to strike back: with the power of her mind. Realizing she has the ability to create realistic illusions, she drove a vicious bully to madness. But after her friend was wrongly struck down in retaliation, Betty decided to exact a terrible revenge...

Betty

Part 4 of 4

... THE HOMECOMING PEP RALLY WILL BEGIN IN TEN MINUTES. ALL STUDENTS REPORT TO THE GYMNASIUM...

THEY ACT LIKE NOTHING REALLY HAPPENED.

ONE JOCK. ONE LOSER. NO BIG DEAL. LIKE THE SCALES ARE BALANCED OR SOMETHING.

THEY TALK ABOUT IT... THEY GOSSIP ABOUT IT... BUT NO ONE'S ACCOUNTABLE...

... I DUNNO, MAN... IT JUST LOOKS KINDA' BAD, Y'KNOW...?

LISTEN... IT WAS JUST PAYBACK, THAT'S ALL...

... BUT WE SURE AS HELL DIDN'T BREAK ANY BONES OR THROW HIM DOWN THAT HILL. THAT WAS ALL HIM.

IS IT OUR FAULT HE BUYS IT IN THE HOSPITAL? THAT THE DOCTORS COULDN'T SAVE HIM?!

... ALL STUDENTS REPORT TO THE GYMNASIUM...

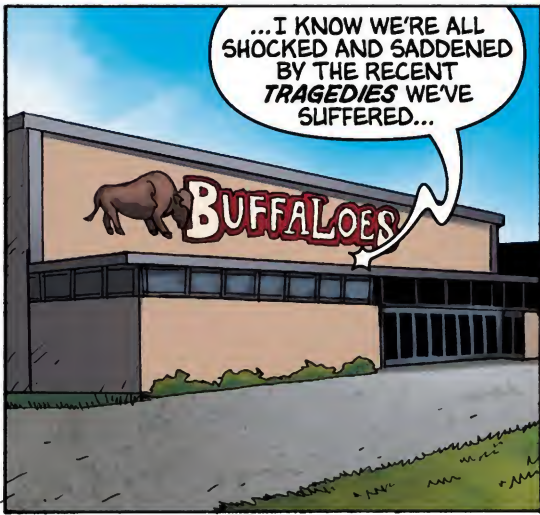
C'MON... FORGET ALL ABOUT THAT. WE'VE GOT A PEP RALLY GOIN' DOWN. PRIORITIES, RIGHT...?

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT...

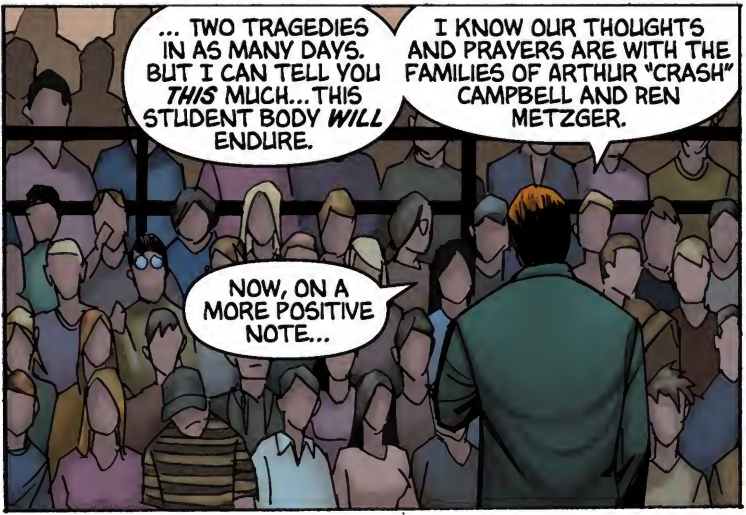
PRIORITIES. YOU GOTTA' BE KIDDING ME.

I'VE GOT ME SOME NEW PRIORITIES NOW...

... SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS.



... I KNOW WE'RE ALL SHOCKED AND SADDENED BY THE RECENT TRAGEDIES WE'VE SUFFERED...



... TWO TRAGEDIES IN AS MANY DAYS. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS MUCH... THIS STUDENT BODY WILL ENDURE.

I KNOW OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE FAMILIES OF ARTHUR "CRASH" CAMPBELL AND REN METZGER.

NOW, ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE...



... WE'VE GOT A HOMECOMING GAME TO WIN. LET YOUR BUFFALOES KNOW THAT YOU'RE BEHIND THEM!

BRING ON THE CHEER SQUAD---



IT'S ALL SO FAKE...

READY!
OKAY!

GO BUFFALOES!

C'MON,
LET'S HEAR IT --!



THEN AGAIN...

...IT'S ALL SO EASY.



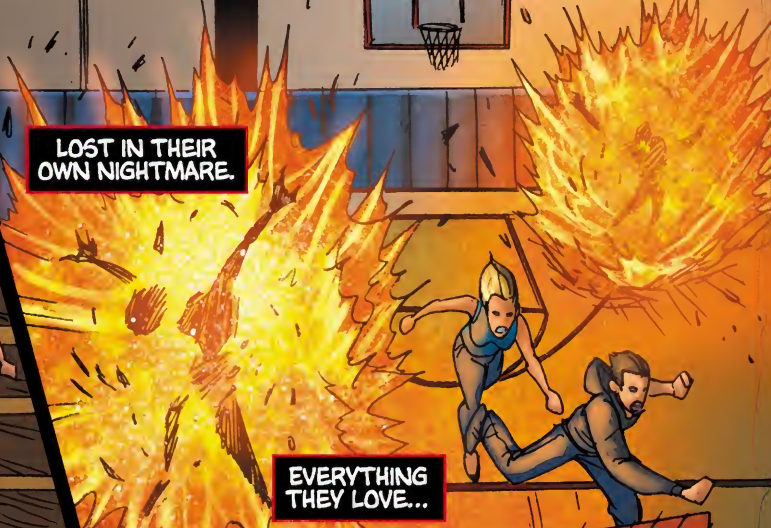
RRR! OGGLLL...!

OH GOD--!



HIGH SCHOOL APOCALYPSE.

BRING 'EM TO THEIR KNEES.



LOST IN THEIR OWN NIGHTMARE.

EVERYTHING THEY LOVE...



...EXPLODING ALL AROUND THEM.



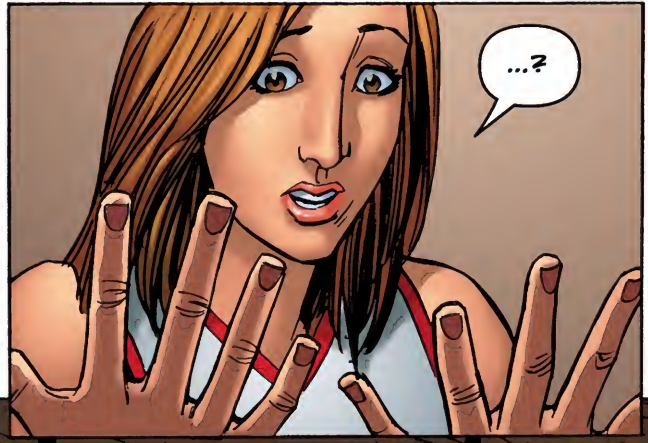
NO MERCY.



NO SYMPATHY.



NO LOOKING BACK.



IF ONLY IT WERE REAL...

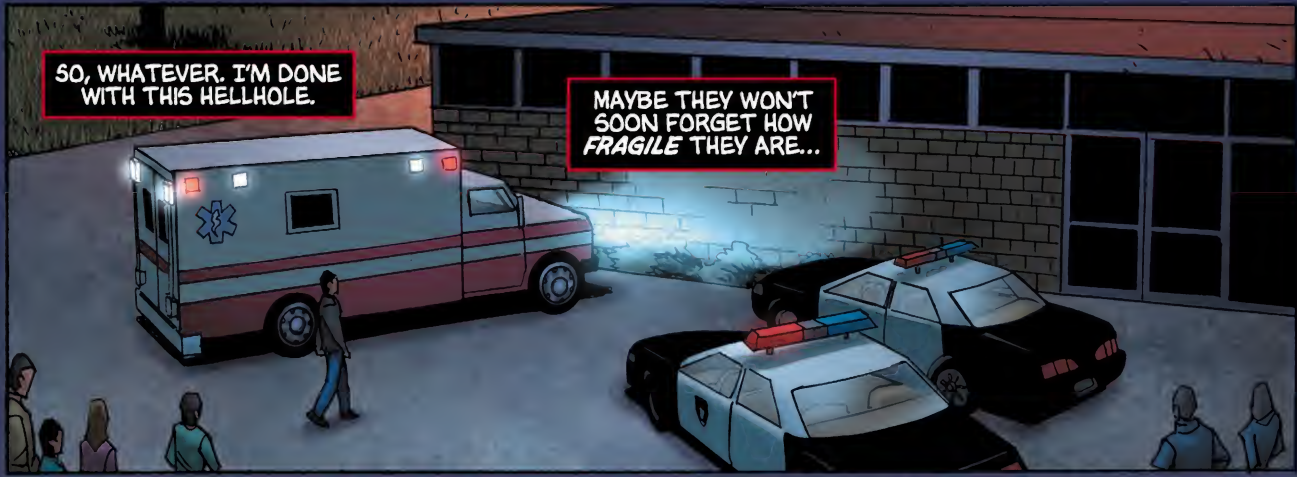


HOLY... HELL...!
DID YOU JUST SEE WHAT I SAW?!

I... I THINK SO...



OMIGOD... OMIGOD...
WHY... WHY DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING...?!WHO'S... WHO'S DOING THIS TO US?!



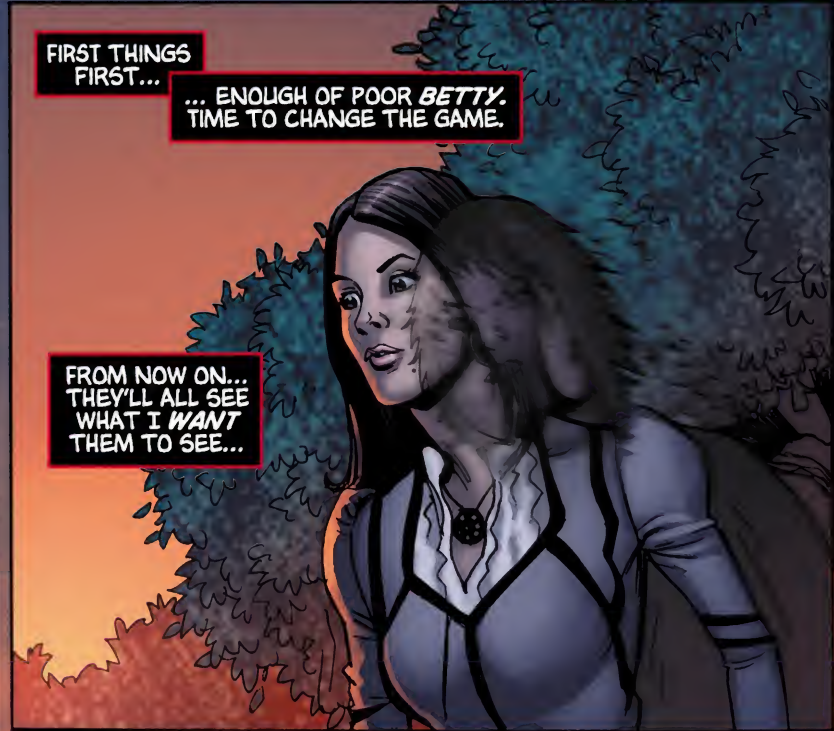
SO, WHATEVER. I'M DONE WITH THIS HELLHOLE.

MAYBE THEY WON'T SOON FORGET HOW FRAGILE THEY ARE...



...HOW FRAGILE WE ALL ARE.

AND NOW THAT I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF, I SHOULD PUT IT TO SOME USE, RIGHT?



FIRST THINGS FIRST...

... ENOUGH OF POOR BETTY. TIME TO CHANGE THE GAME.

FROM NOW ON... THEY'LL ALL SEE WHAT I WANT THEM TO SEE...



SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED THE RIGHT NAME... SOMETHING THAT SETS A TONE... SOMETHING THAT GOES WITH MY NEW LOOK...



CANDICE.

THAT'S A GOOD NAME.

JOE CASEY OF MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS
Story
RYAN ODAGAWA
Art
JOHN STARR COMICRAFT
Colors Lettering
An ASPEN MLT INC. Production

End



HEROES

CHAPTER 43

Golden Handshake Man Overboard

Part 1 of 4

For years, Claude, the invisible man, worked side by side with Noah Bennet, the man in horned-rimmed glasses. Together, these "company men" risked their lives to save the world. Or so they thought. Claude grew uneasy with his assignments, questioning who benefited from their work. Discovering this, the company gave Bennet his most difficult assignment: kill Claude.

But before Bennet, Claude had a different partner, the man called Haram...

GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

MAN OVERBOARD

Part 1 of 4

17 YEARS AGO...

STATUS REPORT:
Location: Côte d'Azur.
The French Riviera.

Notes: Have tracked down extortionist and murderer *Rollo Fusor* - 'special' whose ability to rapidly dehydrate water from whatever he touches has been used to bankrupt many in the European elite.

Considered a class 'A' priority by the higher-ups before he seemingly fell off the face of the planet seven years ago. Fusor was my partner Haram's first failed case. Haram wasn't about to let him get away again.

PUKT PAK POKK

ಽNNGಽ
DAMN IT!
NOT NOW!

STEVEN T. SEAGLE & DUNCAN ROULEAU OF MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS Story
MICHAEL GAYDOS Art
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR Colors
COMICRAFT Lettering
An INVISIBLE COLLEGE Production





TEMPER, TEMPER, PARTNER...



YOU'VE GOT THIS. DON'T LET YOUR NERVES--

DON'T LECTURE ME, CLAUDE! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

THEN ACCEPT HIS OFFER.



ACCEPT?! THERE'S NO NEGOTIATING WITH THIS LUNATIC!

FUSOR IS A MONSTER! HE SUCKS THE LIFE OUT OF HIS VICTIMS AND --



I'M NOT LETTIN' HIM GET AWAY. I GOT HIM DEAD TO RIGHTS THIS TIME, I'M --

GOING TO GET HIS HOSTAGES KILLED IF WE DON'T LET HIM THINK HE'S A FREE MAN.



THINK...?

ACCEPT HIS TERMS. WHEN HE RUNS...I'LL STOP HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BOAT-HOUSE.



GOOD, 'CAUSE, I'M DONE. THE ONLY THING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FOR ME IS RETIREMENT.

DON'T TALK CRAZY, HARAM. I DON'T WANT TO BREAK IN A NEW PARTNER.

IT'LL ALL WORK OUT IF YOU JUST STICK WITH THE PLAN THIS TIME.





DON'T WORRY FOLKS, YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY --



I'VE GOT -- YOU --?



NO, NO, LOVE --

KLATCH



WE'VE GOT YOU.

WHAT THE --?!



CLAUDE --!



No Be Continued!



HEROES

CHAPTER 44

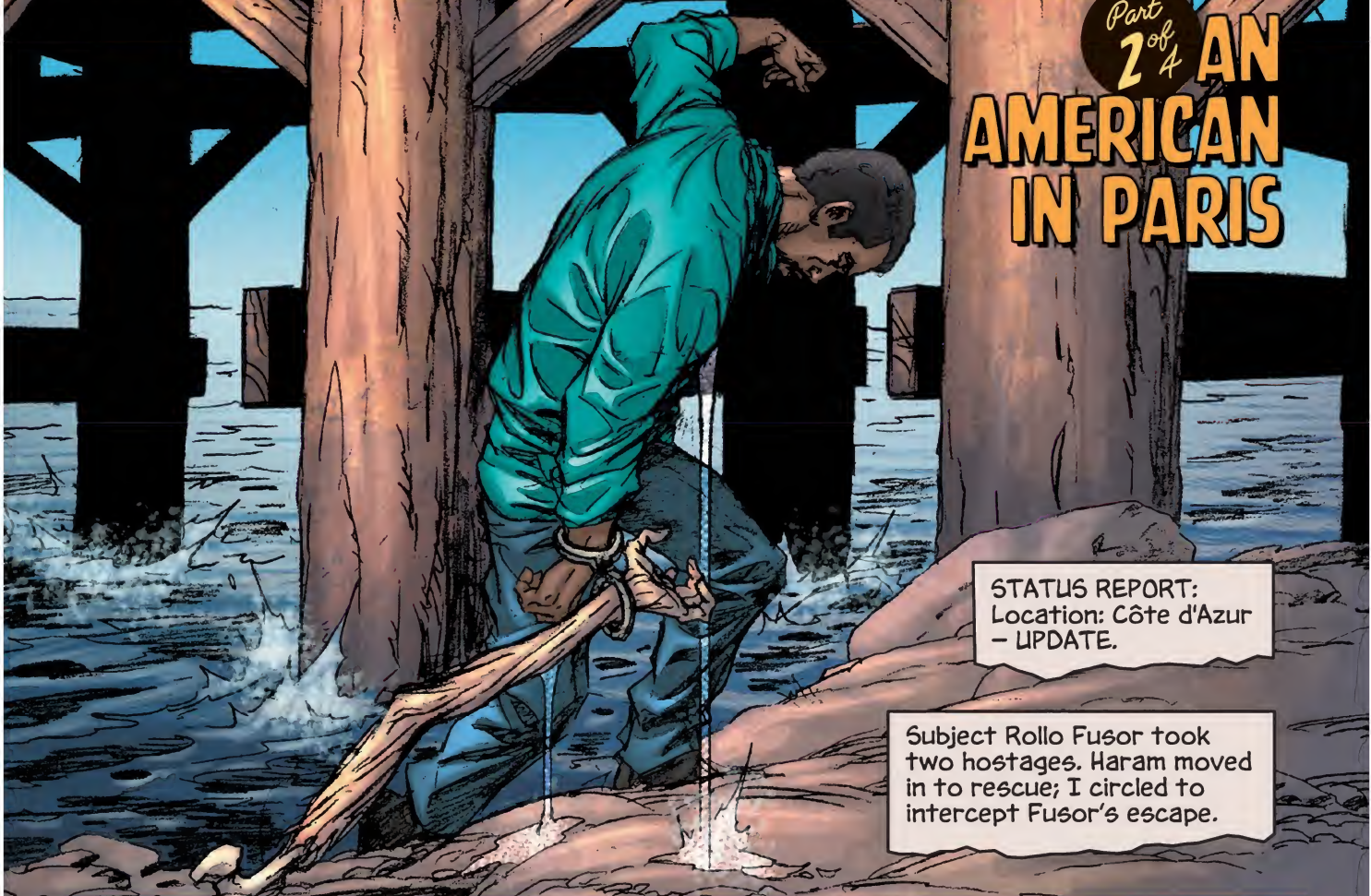
Golden Handshake An American in Paris

Part 2 of 4

Before Noah Bennet, Claude, the invisible agent for the company, partnered with a different man: Haram. Together, they trailed Fusor, an elusive killer with a withering touch. Haram had a grudge against Fusor, who had escaped Haram several times in the past. Haram, unfortunately, found the tables turned on him when Fusor laid a deadly trap for the company men...

GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

Part 2 of 4 AN AMERICAN IN PARIS



STATUS REPORT:
Location: Côte d'Azur
- UPDATE.

Subject Rollo Fusor took two hostages. Haram moved in to rescue; I circled to intercept Fusor's escape.

STEVEN T. SEAGLE & DUNCAN ROULEAU OF MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS *Story* TOM GRUMMETT *Art* CHRIS SOTOMAYOR *Colors* COMICRAFT *Lettering* An INVISIBLE COLLEGE *Production*



On arrival, one hostage dead - dehydrated - the other - a decoy who attempted to murder Haram.



I was forced to chose between Fusor's capture and my partner's life.



This should in no way be recorded as another field loss for Haram, though.

If our roles were reversed things would probably have turned out the same... probably.



Will follow new intel and track Fusor in Paris.

IRONIC, HUH? FUSOR WAS MY *FIRST* CASE -- ELEVEN YEARS AGO -- AND I BOTCHED IT --

NOW HE'S MY *LAST* CASE AND I BOTCHED IT AGAIN.



I HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT HIM, YOU KNOW?

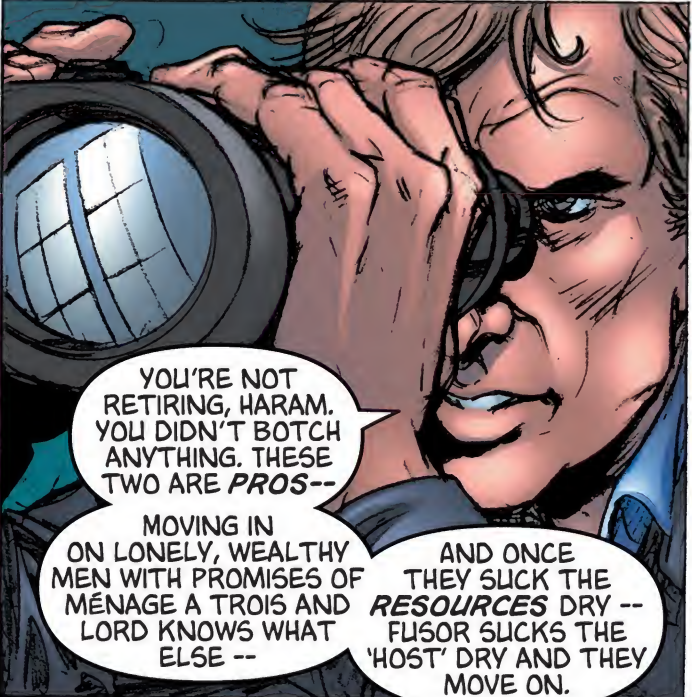
I FOUGHT IN THE GULF -- I'VE SEEN SOME STUFF. BUT SUCKING THE *WATER* OUT OF PEOPLE...?

I WANNA GET THIS CREEP SO I CAN SLEEP AGAIN.



CLAUDE, WHEN I RETIRE AFTER THIS --

YOU CAN BET THAT'S MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY -- LONG, PERFECT, SLEEP.



YOU'RE NOT RETIRING, HARAM. YOU DIDN'T BOTCH ANYTHING. THESE TWO ARE *PROS*--

MOVING IN ON LONELY, WEALTHY MEN WITH PROMISES OF MÈNAGE À TROIS AND LORD KNOWS WHAT ELSE --

AND ONCE THEY SUCK THE *RESOURCES* DRY -- FUSOR SUCKS THE 'HOST' DRY AND THEY MOVE ON.



THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG FUSOR'S ACCOMPLICE WAS IN THERE FIRST. *NEITHER* ONE OF US SPOTTED HER --



I JUST SPOTTED HER.



THE COMPANY JUST MESSAGED.

AFTER REVIEWING THE RIVIERA EVIDENCE, THEY THINK FUSOR'S POWER ONLY WORKS ON ORGANIC MATTER, SO --



THEY 'THINK'?

'THINK' ISN'T GONNA KEEP ME FROM BEING FOSSILIZED.



AGREED, SO KEEPING OUR SKIN COVERED IS THE BACK-UP PLAN.

WHAT'S THE MAIN PLAN?



ON MY SIGNAL, WE ENTER, LOCATE FUSOR, TAKE OFF HIS HANDS, TOURNIQUET THE --

OFF?

OFF.



FUSOR FIRST, THEN THE GIR--





'SKSSSH'?

'SKSSSH' ISN'T THE NOISE A FATAL CAVITY WOUND MAKES.



IT IS IF THE CAVITY IS DRY AS A BONE...

HOW THE HELL CAN THIS BE?

FRENCHIE AND FUSOR BOTH SUCKED DRY? BUT THAT MEANS --



FORGET THE BUTLER... ...IT'S ALWAYS THE GIRL.



SHE WASN'T HIS ACCOMPLICE.

HE WAS HERS ALL ALONG...



ROOF!
ROOOOF--!

Be Continued...



HEROES

CHAPTER 45

Golden Handshake One More for the Road

Part 3 of 4

Narrowly escaping death, Haram and Claude renew their hunt for the killer Fusor. They soon discover Fusor has found new prey... and find a shocking clue to Fusor's true identity...

GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

Part 3 of 4

ONE MORE FOR THE ROAD

Paris.

Night.

Fusor was a decoy. A beard. His partner, the woman, was the real special -- a water vampire. We must have gotten too close. Spooked her.

She's cutting loose ends off -- killing anyone who could identify her -- trying to go back underground.

If Haram has his way, she will be underground... permanently.



...EH?

SACRE COEUR!







THAT WAY --!

HARAM!

YOU'RE DRAWING TOO MUCH ATTENTION--!



THIS IS MY LAST RUN --

I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT TAKING HER OUT!



YOU'RE NOT IN THIS ALONE! WE'RE PARTNERS, DAMN IT!

CALM DOWN AND STRATEGIZE AND WE CAN CLOSE THIS!



SSKKTCH

YOU HEAR THAT...?

WE DO THIS TOGETHER. I'LL CIRCLE BEHIND -- YOU DRIVE HER OUT TO ME.



HNNNN--!

IT'S OVER, SWEETHEART --







HEROES

CHAPTER 46

Golden Handshake Severance Pay

Part 4 of 4

The search for Fusor took a deadly new turn. Both Haram and Claude realize their assumptions about the killer have led them down the wrong path. But now Fusor has turned the tables and directed her lethal powers onto Haram...

GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

Part
4 of 4

SEVERANCE PAY

GNNHKK..!

Performance evaluation - everything Haram did on this mission to capture the water vamp followed Company procedure right up through the endgame.

Despite the uneven results, Haram should definitely still be considered a strong asset to the team though this is (obviously) not a bonus situation for him.

STEVEN T. SEAGLE & DUNCAN ROULEAU OF MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS *Story* MICHAEL GAYDOS *Art* CHRIS SOTOMAYOR COMICRAFT *Colors* *Lettering* An INVISIBLE COLLEGE Production









GIVE YA A HAND?

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BRING HER *IN*.

WE STILL CAN... GO FIND ME A DUST PAN AND A GARBAGE SACK.

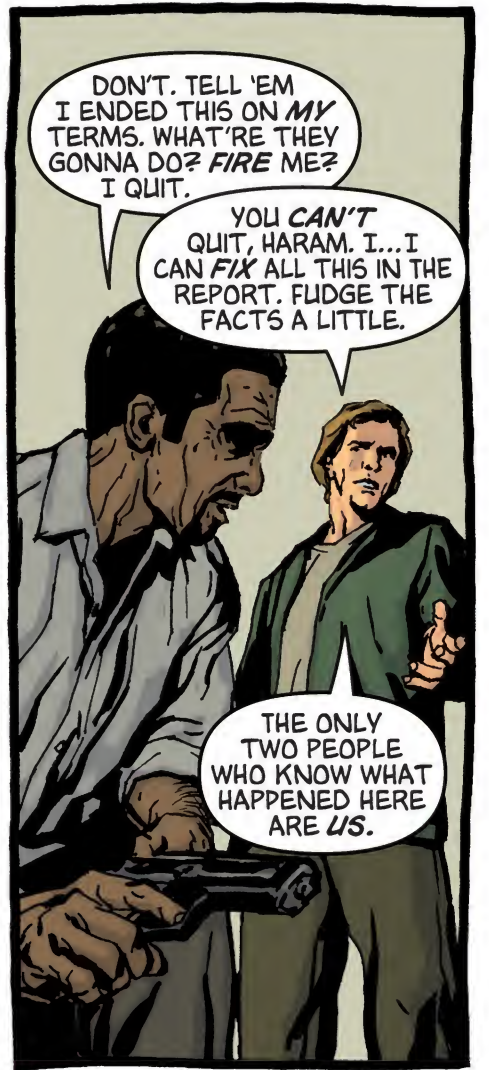


THEY WANTED HER ALIVE!

AN' SHE WANTED *US* DEAD. LOOK AT ME!

THE COMPANY ISN'T GOING TO BE HAPPY.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO COVER FOR YOU? *AGAIN?*



DON'T. TELL 'EM I ENDED THIS ON *MY* TERMS. WHAT'RE THEY GONNA DO? *FIRE ME?* I QUIT.

YOU *CAN'T* QUIT, HARAM. I... I CAN *FIX* ALL THIS IN THE REPORT. FUDGE THE FACTS A LITTLE.

THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE ARE *US*.



....WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT FOR ME?

GIVE ME TIME TO FIND A PARTNER I CAN STAND. IT'S HARD ENOUGH OUT HERE WITH SOMEONE YOU CAN *TRUST*.

DO THAT FOR ME. SIX MONTHS, *THEN* RETIRE. WHAT DO YOU SAY?



OKAY, HALF A YEAR. YOU HAVE MY *WORD*.



GOOD. NOW IF YOU COULD DEAL WITH *THEM* -- ?

SON OF A -- WHY DO *I* ALWAYS HAVE TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO THE COPS? I DON'T EVEN SPEAK FRENCH, CLAUDE!

FOR ONCE *I'D* LIKE TO GO INVISIBLE AND MAKE A CLEAN BREAK WITH NO ONE KNOWING I WAS EVER THERE.



End of report.
Delivery Mode: Walk in.
Field Agent Signature:
Claude R



YOU'RE ALWAYS SO PUNCTUAL!

MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR MY PARTNER! IS HE HERE YET?



HE CERTAINLY IS!
YOU REMEMBER NOAH BENNET?

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.

NO, I'M YOUR TRAINER. HARAM'S MY PARTNER.



WHERE'S HARAM?

HE'S RETIRED.

NO, HE'S STAYING ON. HALF A YEAR. WE SHOOK -- HE -- GET HIM ON THE PHONE. I WANT TO TALK TO HIM --



I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T BE POSSIBLE, CLAUDE. HE'S RETIRED.

NOW HURRY IN. MR. THOMPSON IS WAITING FOR YOU BOTH....

End



HEROES

CHAPTER 47 HEROISM IS FOUND IN THE HEART

Part 1 of 2

As the heroes converged in New York City, Ando took it upon himself to stop Sylar-- without Hiro. With little planning and no powers, Ando soon found himself overwhelmed, about to become Sylar's next victim. Hiro saved him and brought Ando back to Japan to keep him from harm's way. But Hiro's efforts were not cautious enough...

HEROISM *is* FOUND *in the* HEART

CHRISTOPHER ZATTA

Story

RYAN ODAGAWA

Art

JOHN STARR

Colors

COMICRAFT

Lettering

AN ASPEN MLT INC.

Production

I AM BACK IN TOKYO. WORKING AT YAMAGATO. HIRO LEFT ME HERE SO HE COULD BE A HERO. BECAUSE HE'S THE ONE WITH SUPER POWERS.*

* EDITOR'S NOTE: TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.

I'M SPECIAL TOO. I'VE BEEN ON INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES IN AMERICA. I CAN BE A HERO. AND LIKE CLARK KENT AND PETER PARKER, MY DAY JOB IS MY PUBLIC PERSONA.

YOUR POSITION HAS BEEN FILLED. FOR THE TIME BEING, I WILL ASSIGN YOU TO HIRO'S OLD JOB.

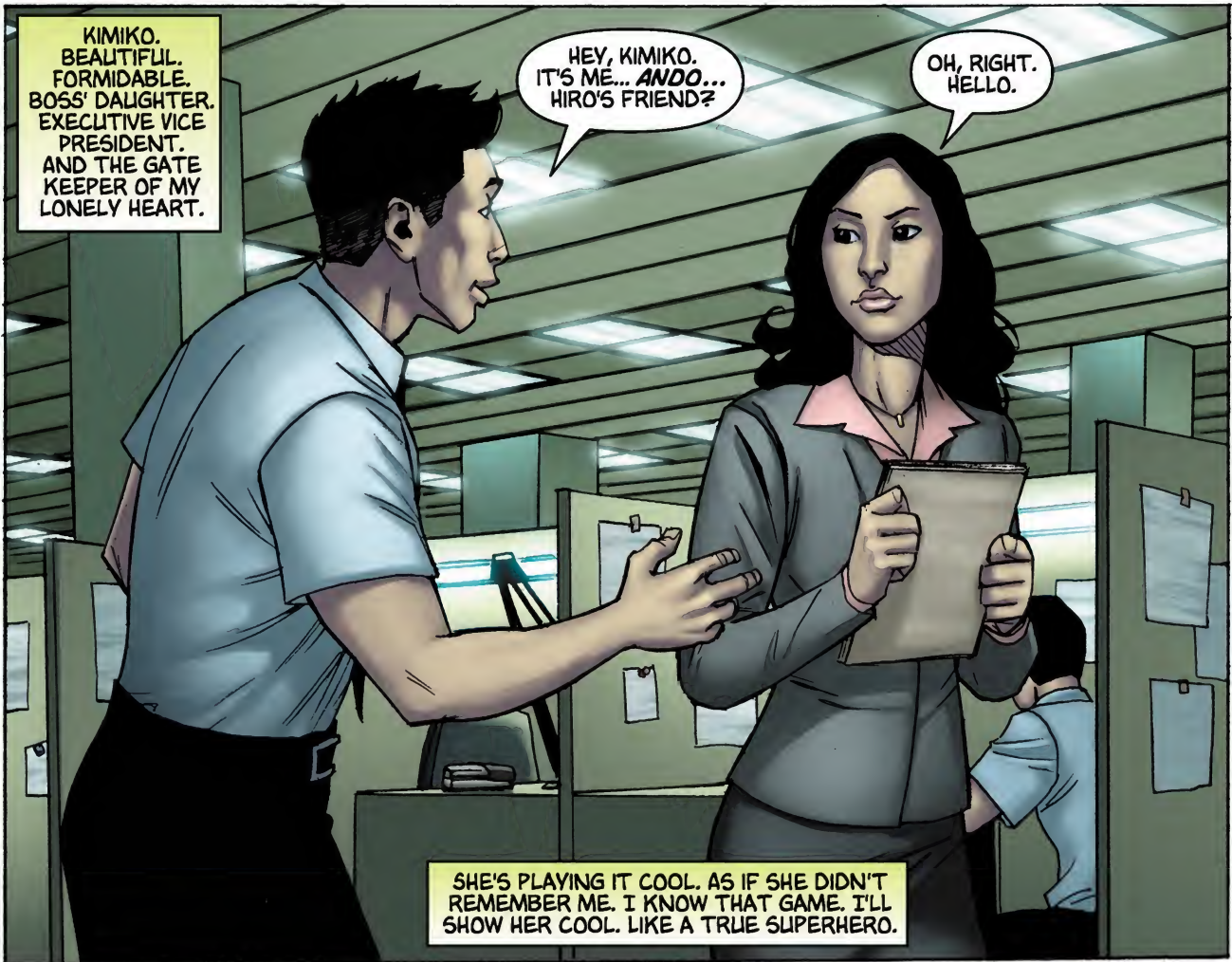
KAITO NAKAMURA. CEO. IMPOSING. INTIMIDATING. HIRO'S DAD.

I AM GRATEFUL. BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HIRO RETURNS? WHERE WILL I WORK THEN?

THERE IS NO NEED TO CROSS A BRIDGE, BEFORE YOU HAVE NEED TO CROSS IT, ANDO.

BRIDGE? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

KIMIKO!



KIMIKO. BEAUTIFUL. FORMIDABLE. BOSS' DAUGHTER. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT. AND THE GATE KEEPER OF MY LONELY HEART.

HEY, KIMIKO. IT'S ME... ANDO... HIRO'S FRIEND?

OH, RIGHT. HELLO.

SHE'S PLAYING IT COOL. AS IF SHE DIDN'T REMEMBER ME. I KNOW THAT GAME. I'LL SHOW HER COOL. LIKE A TRUE SUPERHERO.



SO, THAT BROTHER OF YOURS. LET ME TELL YOU, THIS ONE TIME IN A VEGAS CASINO --

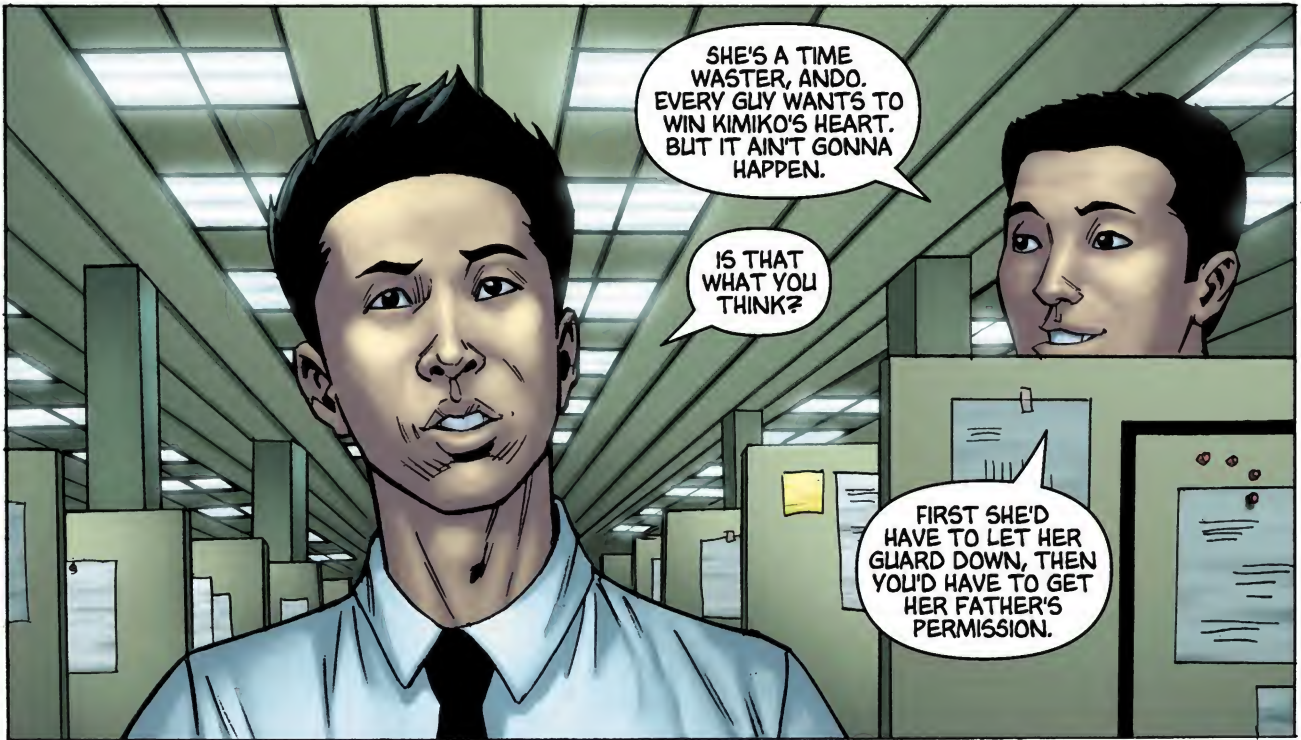
≡GROAN≡ I NEED TO DO SOME WORK. YOU SHOULD BE AT YOUR DESK AS WELL.



KIMIKO NAKAMURA
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

≡SIGH≡

EVERY HERO NEEDS A HEROINE.



SHE'S A TIME WASTER, ANDO. EVERY GUY WANTS TO WIN KIMIKO'S HEART. BUT IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN.

IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?

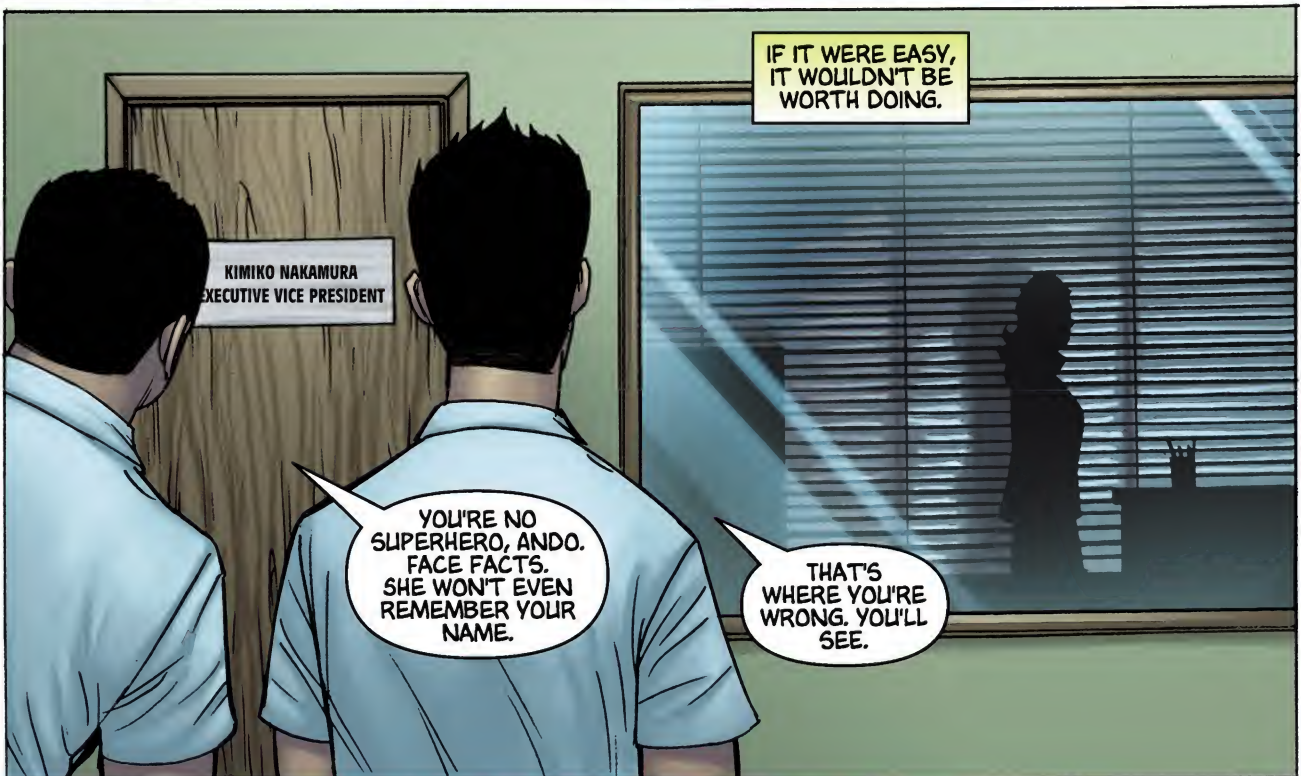
FIRST SHE'D HAVE TO LET HER GUARD DOWN, THEN YOU'D HAVE TO GET HER FATHER'S PERMISSION.



THIS GUY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND. I'M NO DIME A DOZEN.

I ONCE ASSISTED A U.S. MARSHALL IN CAPTURING AN EVIL SHOW GIRL. IT WAS DANGEROUS, BUT I SAVED THE DAY.

WHATEVER.



IF IT WERE EASY, IT WOULDN'T BE WORTH DOING.

KIMIKO NAKAMURA
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

YOU'RE NO SUPERHERO, ANDO. FACE FACTS. SHE WON'T EVEN REMEMBER YOUR NAME.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG. YOU'LL SEE.

NIGHTTIME...

...WHEN TRUE HEROES ARE NEEDED.

GEEZ, SHE WORKS LATE.

CH-CHK

FINALLY!

KIMIKO! WORKING LATE TOO? CAN I WALK YOU HOME?

OH. HI...

ANDO.

I SUPPOSE, IF YOU WANT YOU CAN WALK ME HOME.

YES! SHE'S PLAYING IT COOL AGAIN TO HIDE HER ENTHUSIASM. THAT WILL CHANGE.



IT'S COLOGNE!
I GOT IT IN AMERICA,
"WATER FROM THE
TOILET". GIRLS
LIKE IT.

UGH! YOU
STINK!



CHIVALRY IS A TRAIT FOUND
IN THE GREATEST OF MEN.

YOU MAY SMELL
HORRIBLY, BUT AT
LEAST YOU'RE A
GENTLEMAN.


GENTLEMAN,
HERO. IT'S ALL
THE SAME.

THE DEFINING MOMENT.
ANOTHER KEY ASPECT TO
THE LEGEND OF A HERO. TO
FACE OFF AND CONQUER
A POWERFUL FOE...



OH, NO...

山形



IF EVER THERE WERE A
TIME FOR A SUPERPOWER,
THIS IS IT.

I HAVE A BAD
FEELING ABOUT
THIS.

*To Be
Continued...*



HEROES

CHAPTER 48 HEROISM IS FOUND IN THE HEART

Part 2 of 2

Hiro teleported Ando back to Japan, keeping his friend out of the final conflict at Kirby Plaza. Ando, unable to find any trace of what happened to Hiro after the battle, decided to stay in Japan. Returning to Yamagato Industries, Ando reconnected with his old crush, Kimiko... who also happened to be Hiro's sister. Unfortunately, Ando soon learned he had much bigger obstacles in winning her heart...



THAT'S **FUMIO FUKAZAWA**. HIS GANG HAS BEEN TERRORIZING THE CITY AND TAKING WHATEVER THEY WANT.*
WHY ARE THEY HERE?

I CAN THINK OF *ONE* REASON.

* EDITOR'S NOTE: TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.



THERE YOU ARE, MY KIMIKO.

FUMIO AND I USED TO DATE EACH OTHER IN SCHOOL. HE'S BEEN SPIRALING INTO TROUBLE EVER SINCE I BROKE UP WITH HIM.



HE WON'T GET WHAT HE WANTS *THIS* TIME.

WHAT DOES HE WANT?

ME. ALWAYS HAS. ALWAYS WILL.



HE WANTS KIMIKO? AS CRAZY AS IT SOUNDS, I SUDDENLY HAVE A STRONG UNDERSTANDING FOR WHAT FUMIO MUST BE FEELING.



HERE IT IS. THE *ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN* BEGINS. AM I READY TO FACE THE ENEMY?

GET THE GIRL AND GET RID OF HER FRIEND!



LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

A GREAT WARRIOR KNOWS WHEN IT'S TIME TO RETREAT AND FACE THE ENEMY ANOTHER DAY.



I CAN USE AGILE AND LIGHTNING QUICK REFLEXES TO ESCAPE. I ONLY HOPE KIMIKO IS OK.

EGAD!



EAT HEEL!



THANKS FOR DIVERTING HIM!

UH, SURE THING... YOU KNOW HOW TO RIDE A MOTORCYCLE?



WOW, I DID IT. I HELPED US GET AWAY. BIG MAN. I EVEN FEEL TALLER!

OH... I'M SITTING ON SOMETHING.

AN EXTRA HELMET. PERFECT! IT WILL BE A HEROIC GESTURE TO GIVE IT TO KIMIKO!



HEY, KIMIKO! LOOK...

BMP



OOPS.



NICE WORK, ANDO!

SHE REMEMBERED MY NAME!

HA, I'VE FACED OFF WITH THE WORST VILLAINS EVER. THESE GUYS ARE NOTHING!

ALL CLEAR NOW. THIS IS PRETTY ROMANTIC. A RELATIONSHIP BORN FROM INTENSE CIRCUMSTANCE. LIKE KEANU REEVES AND SANDRA BULLOCK.

OH NO. NOWHERE TO RUN. NOWHERE TO HIDE.

WE'RE TRAPPED. YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, ANDO.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. I DON'T HAVE A SPECIAL POWER. WHAT CAN I DO? I THOUGHT... MAYBE... BUT...

KIMIKO!
MAKE THIS EASY ON YOURSELF AND *BE WITH ME!*

I'M SCARED.

I MUST.

DON'T WORRY. I WILL PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE.





HEY, *FUMIO!* YOU CAN COME AFTER KIMIKO, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ANDO FIRST! SO... **BRING IT!**

THAT'S VERY CLICHÉD. YOU'LL BE KILLED!



UH OH... NOT HIM...

RETREAT!



A MOST IMPORTANT LESSON: SOMETIMES YOU ONLY NEED TO SHOW THAT YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, AND ALL WILL FALL INTO PLACE.

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU **RUN!**

YOU *DID* IT! ANDO, YOU'RE MY HERO!



I WAS A HERO. AND I DIDN'T NEED **POWERS** TO DO IT. IT WAS **ALL ME, BABY.**

IMPRESSIVE...

YOU'VE PROTECTED MY DAUGHTER AND PROVEN YOUR WORTH, ANDO.

ENJOY YOUR MOMENT IN THE SUN. WE ALL NEED THEM.

Asabi
アサビビール

Asabi

HEROISM *is* FOUND *in the* HEART

Part 2

CHRISTOPHER ZATTA *Story* RYAN ODAGAWA *Art* JOHN STARR *Colors* COMICRAFT *Lettering* An ASPEN MLT INC. *Production*



HEROES

CHAPTER 49 BLACKOUT

Part 1 of 2

Mohinder Suresh came to New York City to carry on his father's research. Unfortunately, few shared their belief in select individuals developing strange and fantastic abilities. In his travels, he found his own unique trait. Within his immune system, he carried the only known cure to a rare virus. The same virus which killed his sister, Shanti...

I'M ON A JOURNEY.

KRAK KOOM

BLACKOUT

TO FIND PEOPLE WITH
REMARKABLE ABILITIES.

Part
1 of 2

MARK SABLE *Story* JASON BADOWER *Art* COMICRAFT *Lettering* An ASPEN M.L.T. *Production*

TO HELP THEM.

BUT TO HELP
THEM I NEED-

MONEY?

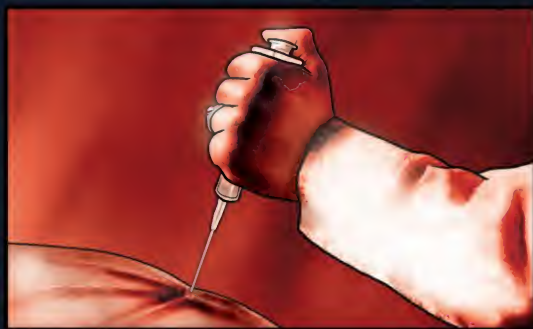
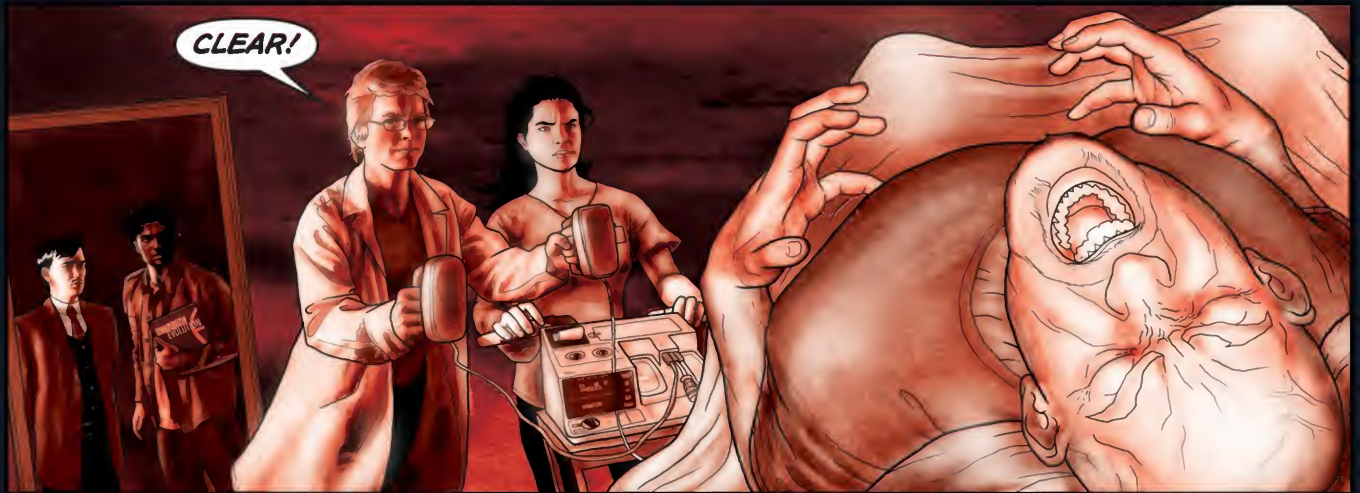
AND CREDIBILITY.
YOU'RE THE
LEADING RESEARCH
HOSPITAL IN-

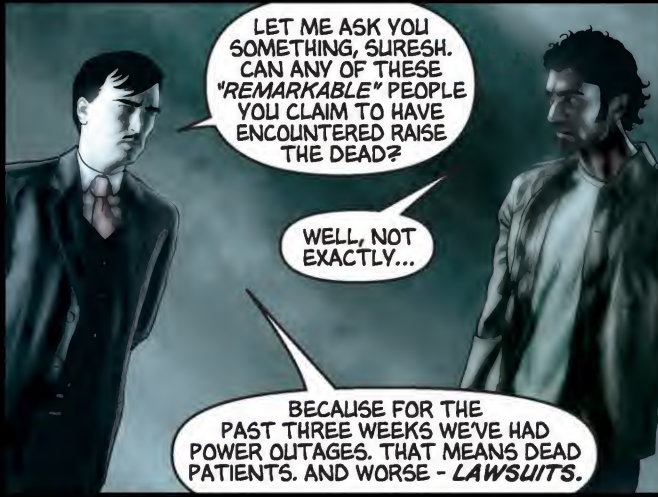
LET ME STOP
YOUR RIGHT THERE,
DR. SURESH.

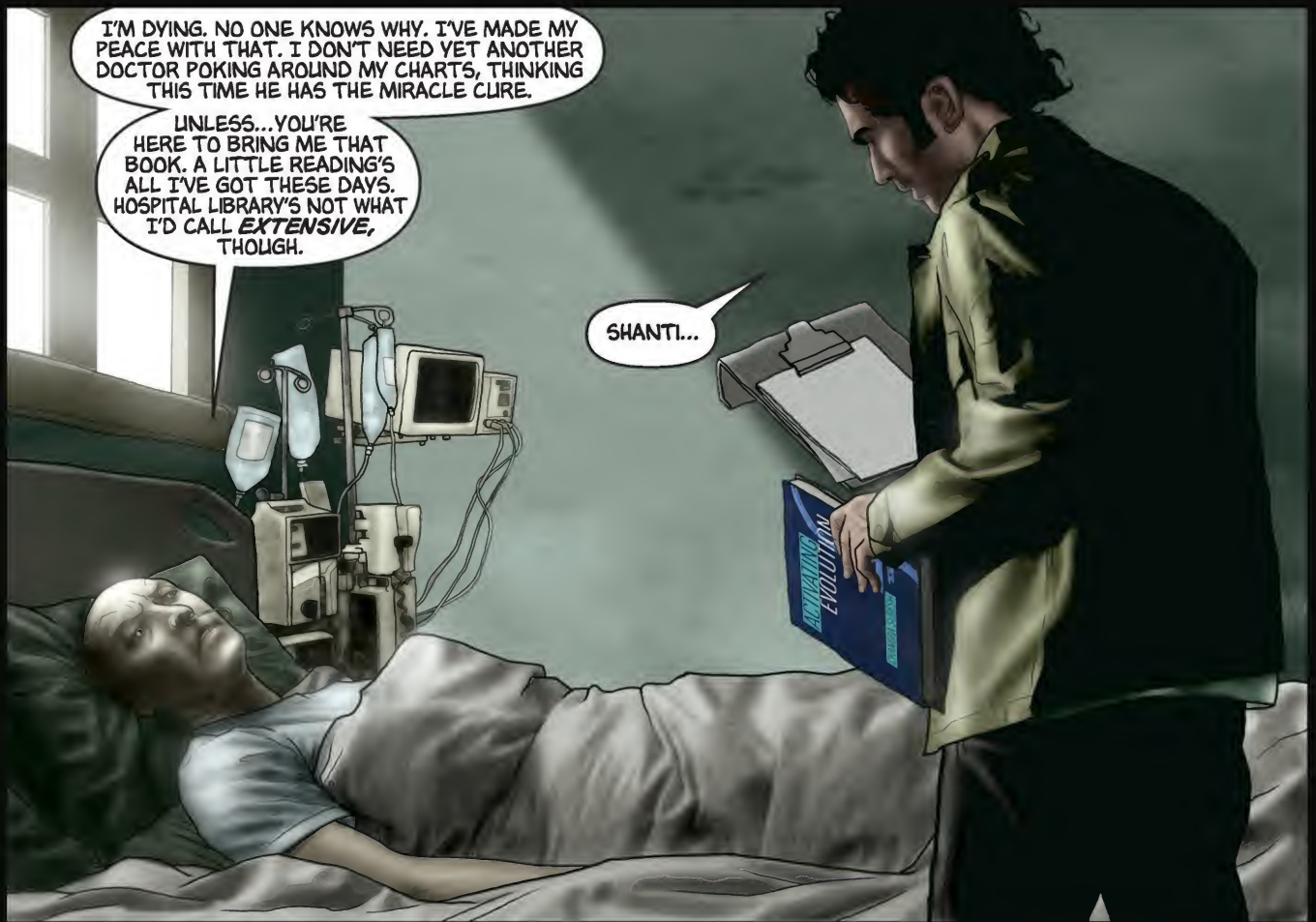
IT'S A LONELY JOURNEY.
WHEREVER I GO, I'M MET
WITH DISBELIEF. I CAN'T
BLAME THEM. WITHOUT
SEEING THE PROOF I
HAVE...IT'S NO WONDER
THE WORLD IS, WELL...

SHOONK

...IN THE
DARK.







I'M DYING. NO ONE KNOWS WHY. I'VE MADE MY PEACE WITH THAT. I DON'T NEED YET ANOTHER DOCTOR POKING AROUND MY CHARTS, THINKING THIS TIME HE HAS THE MIRACLE CURE.

UNLESS... YOU'RE HERE TO BRING ME THAT BOOK. A LITTLE READING'S ALL I'VE GOT THESE DAYS. HOSPITAL LIBRARY'S NOT WHAT I'D CALL *EXTENSIVE*, THOUGH.

SHANTI...



EXCUSE ME?

MY SISTER. SHE HAD THE SAME SYMPTOMS YOU DO.

MEANING...

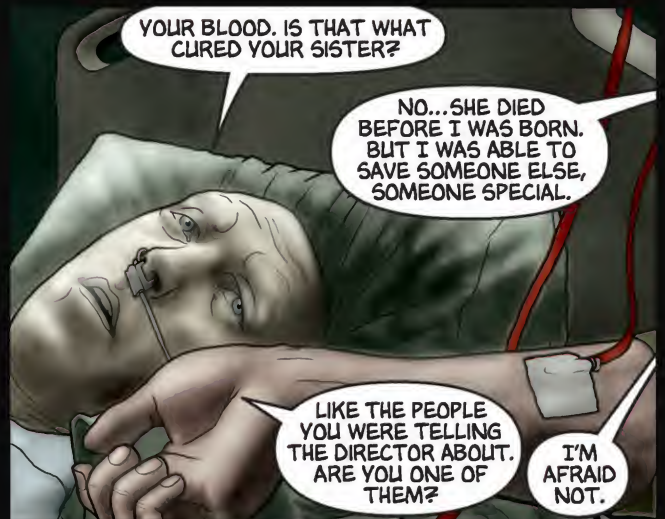


YOU'RE NOT ALONE. AND I CAN HELP YOU.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

GETTING READY TO CURE YOU. GIVING YOU MY BLOOD.



YOUR BLOOD. IS THAT WHAT CURED YOUR SISTER?

NO... SHE DIED BEFORE I WAS BORN. BUT I WAS ABLE TO SAVE SOMEONE ELSE, SOMEONE SPECIAL.

LIKE THE PEOPLE YOU WERE TELLING THE DIRECTOR ABOUT. ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

I'M AFRAID NOT.



HEROES

CHAPTER 50 BLACKOUT

Part 2 of 2

Mohinder Suresh visited a hospital in search of doctors who believed in his cause. People of science who also searched for those with amazing abilities. Instead, he found ridicule and scorn. But one special patient proved that his visit might have not been in vain...



THE BLACKOUTS. THE DEFIBRILLATORS FAILING. YOU DON'T HAVE SHANTI'S DISEASE....

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU DON'T REMEMBER, DO YOU? YOU'RE UNCONSCIOUS WHEN IT HAPPENS, OF COURSE.

YOU CAN **ABSORB ELECTRICAL CURRENTS**. IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE NOW. THE CELLULAR DAMAGE YOU'VE SUSTAINED -- WHAT I MISTOOK FOR ILLNESS -- IT'S TOTALLY CONSISTENT WITH SOMEONE EXPOSED TO SO MUCH--



I NEVER PUT IT TOGETHER BEFORE. THE BLACKOUTS STARTED RIGHT AFTER I ARRIVED. I WAS TOO FOCUSED ON **MY PAIN**... THIS IS HORRIBLE.



NO..NO... THIS IS **GOOD NEWS**. IT MEANS YOUR CURE IS MUCH SIMPLER. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET YOU OFF THE GRID...



YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU? I DON'T **WANT TO BE SAVED**. WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED TO ALL THOSE PATIENTS ON LIFE SUPPORT EVERY TIME I CAUSED THE POWER TO GO OUT? I'M A **MURDERER!**

WHICH IS WHY YOU'RE NOT GOING **ANYWHERE**.



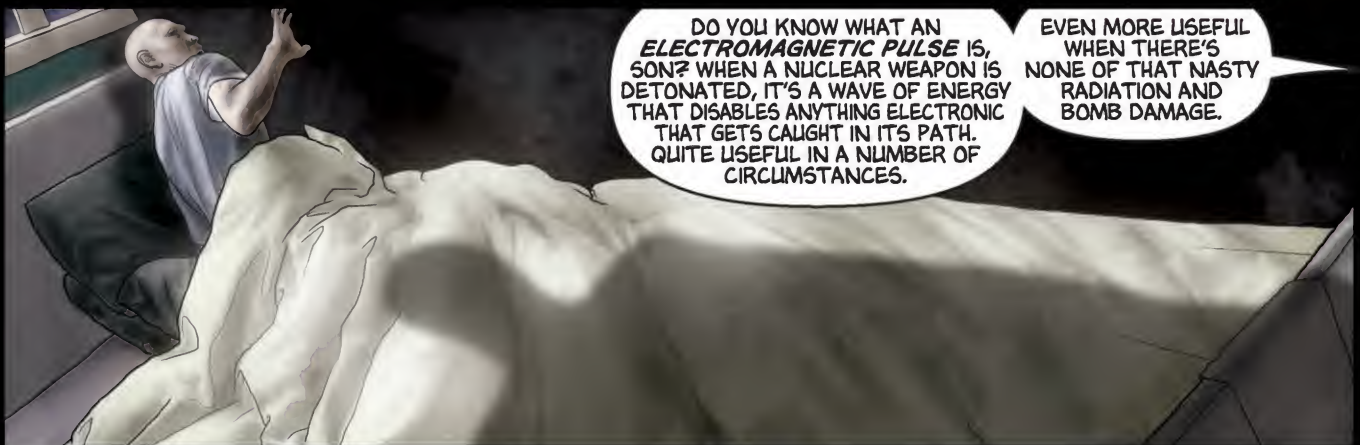
AT LEAST NOT WITHOUT ME, YOU'RE NOT.



DO I KNOW YOU?



NO, DR. SURESH. BUT I BELIEVE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH MY COMPANY.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT AN **ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE** IS, SON? WHEN A NUCLEAR WEAPON IS DETONATED, IT'S A WAVE OF ENERGY THAT DISABLES ANYTHING ELECTRONIC THAT GETS CAUGHT IN ITS PATH. QUITE USEFUL IN A NUMBER OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

EVEN MORE USEFUL WHEN THERE'S NONE OF THAT NASTY RADIATION AND BOMB DAMAGE.



I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU USE HIM AS A **WEAPON**. IF HE KEEPS USING HIS ABILITY - WHICH HE HAS NO CONTROL OVER - HE'S GOING TO KILL HIMSELF.

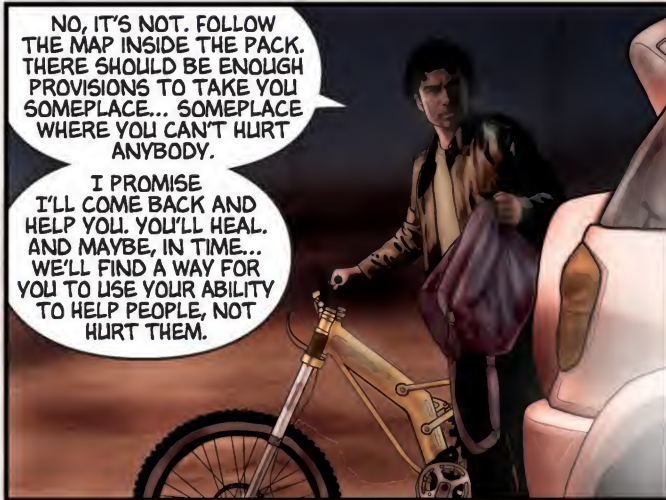
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. HE SAID IT HIMSELF - HE'S A MURDERER.



DID I...

NO... HE'LL LIVE, BUT HE, AND THE PEOPLE HE WORKS FOR, THEY'LL KEEP COMING FOR YOU. WHICH IS WHY I HAVE TO GET YOU TO-



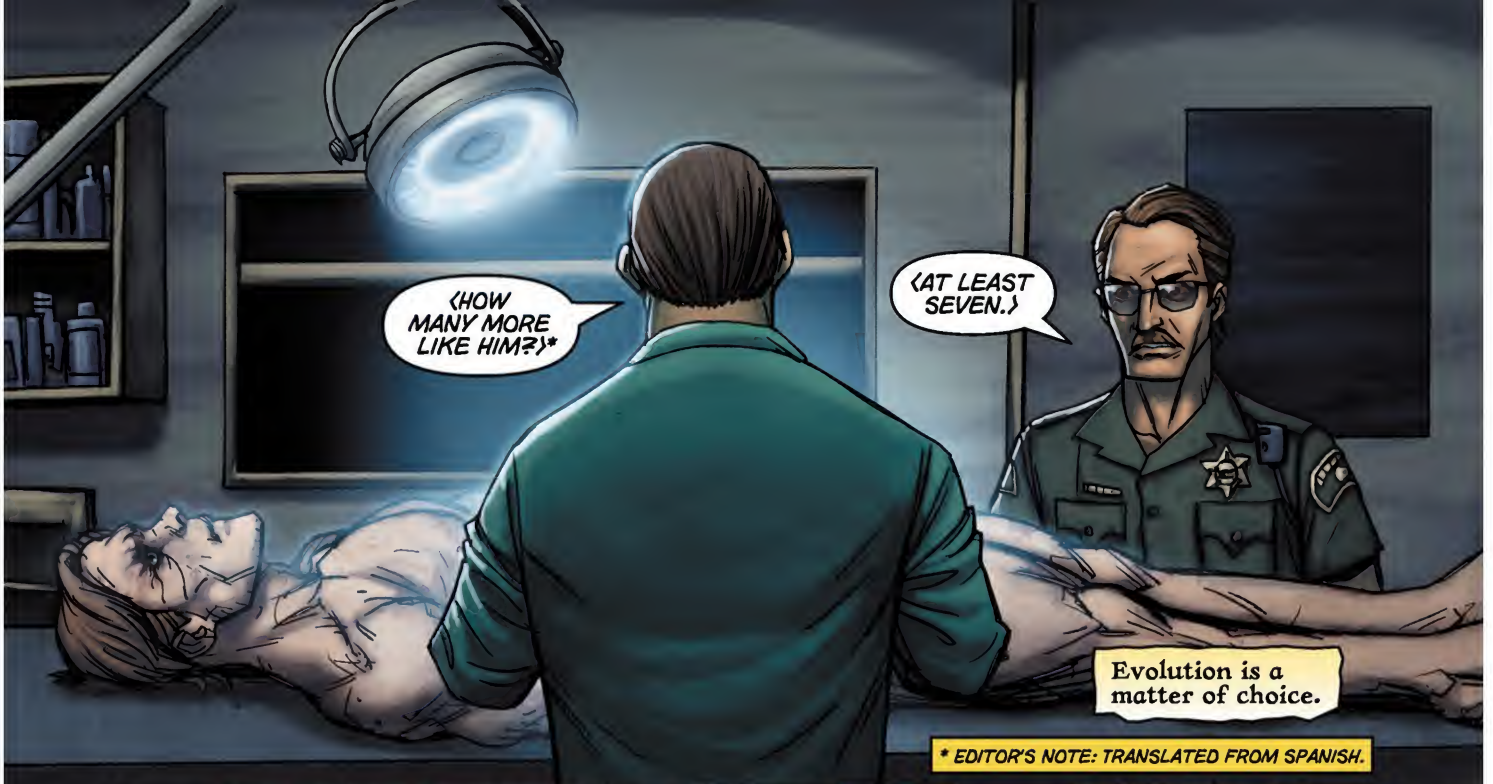




HEROES

CHAPTER 51 MAYA y ALEJANDRO

In New York City, events drew together many of those with fantastic abilities. Some brought hope, like Claire Bennet and Peter Petrelli. Others delivered darkness, like Sylar and the mysterious Linderman. In the aftermath, new people discovered their own strange powers, like the twins, Maya and Alejandro...

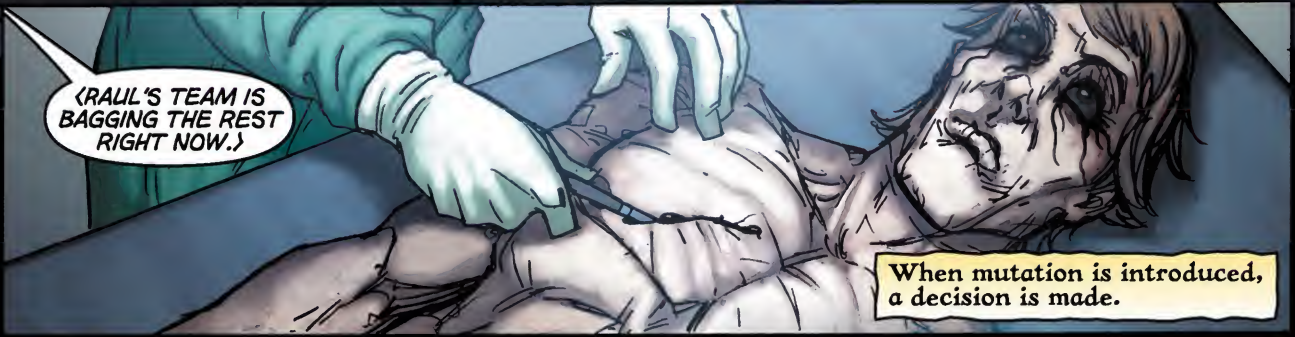


<HOW MANY MORE LIKE HIM?>*

<AT LEAST SEVEN.>

Evolution is a matter of choice.

* EDITOR'S NOTE: TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH.



<RAUL'S TEAM IS BAGGING THE REST RIGHT NOW.>

When mutation is introduced, a decision is made.



Nature asks, "Does this new characteristic have value?"



"Does it represent progress?"



<WHAT CAUSED THIS, DOCTOR?>

<I DON'T THINK THE QUESTION IS 'WHAT'...>

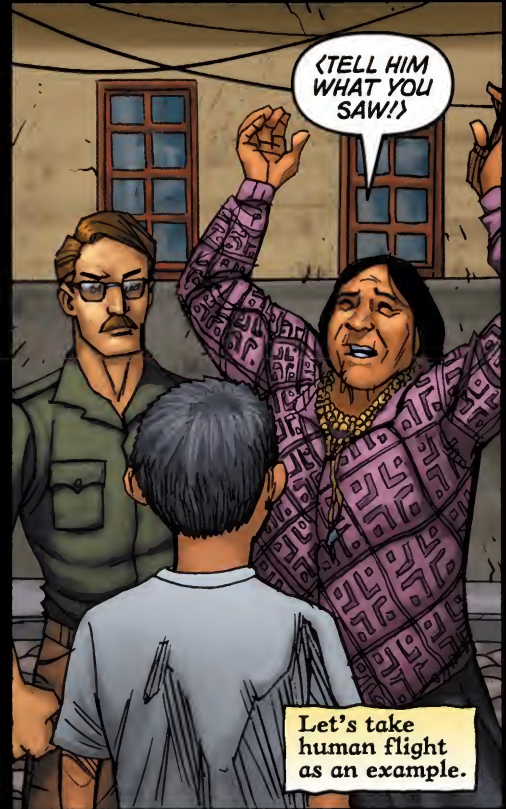
"Will it benefit the species?"



<"...GO BACK TO THE SCENE AND FIND OUT 'WHO?'">

<THE BOY KNOWS WHO!>

<'THESE PEOPLE WHERE POISONED BY SOMEBODY.'>

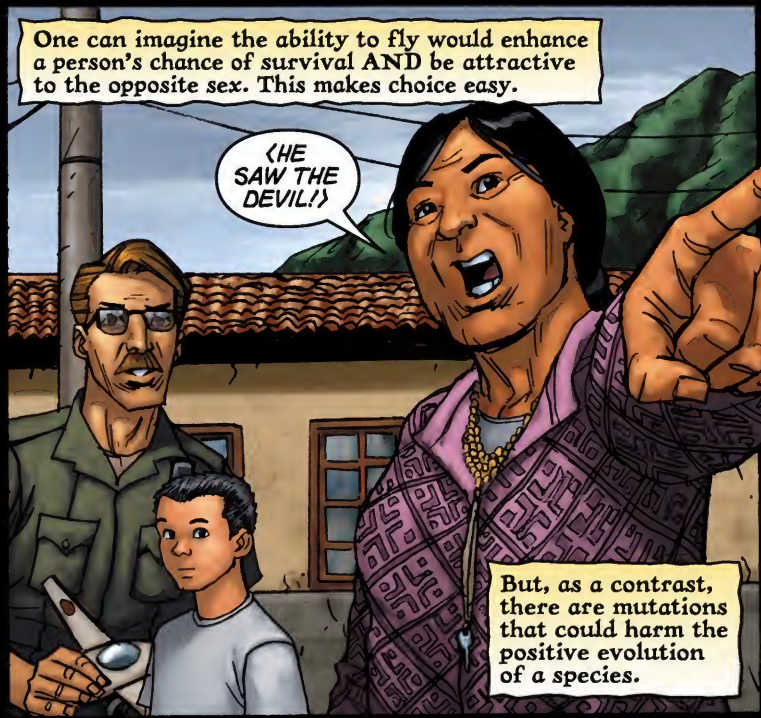


<TELL HIM WHAT YOU SAW!>

Let's take human flight as an example.



<IT'S NOT THE BLACK PLAGUE LIKE THEY ARE SAYING ON TV! HE SAW SOMEONE DO THIS!>



One can imagine the ability to fly would enhance a person's chance of survival AND be attractive to the opposite sex. This makes choice easy.

<HE SAW THE DEVIL!>

But, as a contrast, there are mutations that could harm the positive evolution of a species.



Like the ability to host a deadly virus.

<WANT TO HELP ME?>

Naturally, this type of trait is often rejected because...

..if left unchecked, the worst cases of scenarios can occur...



<WANT TO HELP ME CAPTURE THE DEVIL?>

...the extinction of the species.

MAYA *y* ALEJANDRO

MARK WARSHAW
RYAN ODAGAWA

Story
Art

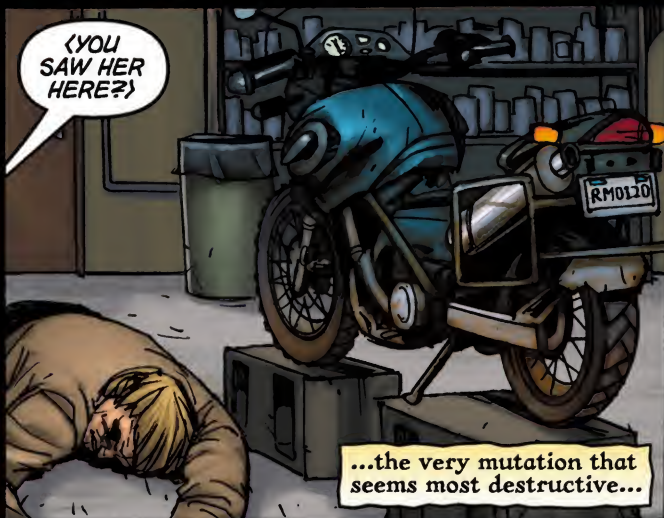
JOHN STARR
COMICRAFT

Colors
Lettering

An
ASPEN MLT INC.
Production



But in some cases...



<YOU SAW HER HERE?>

...the very mutation that seems most destructive...



<THERE WERE TWO?>

...can be cured, corrected or eradicated.



<SO IT WAS A BOY AND A GIRL?>

Or, better yet...

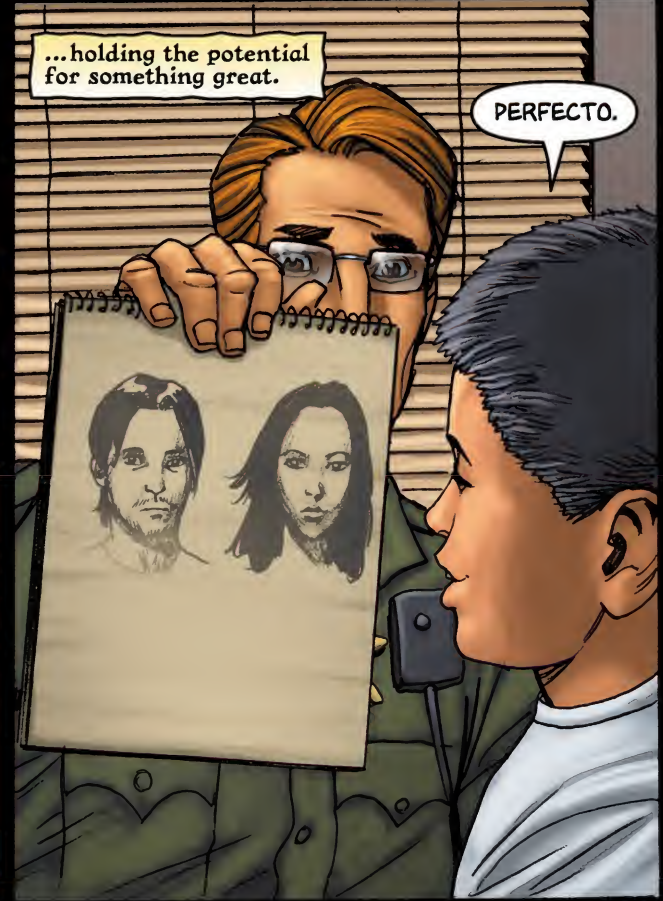


<WANT TO HELP ME DRAW A PICTURE?>

...take the virtually immortal cancer cell. Some scientists believe it actually holds the secret to keeping healthy cells alive longer.



A seemingly unattractive mutation...



...holding the potential for something great.

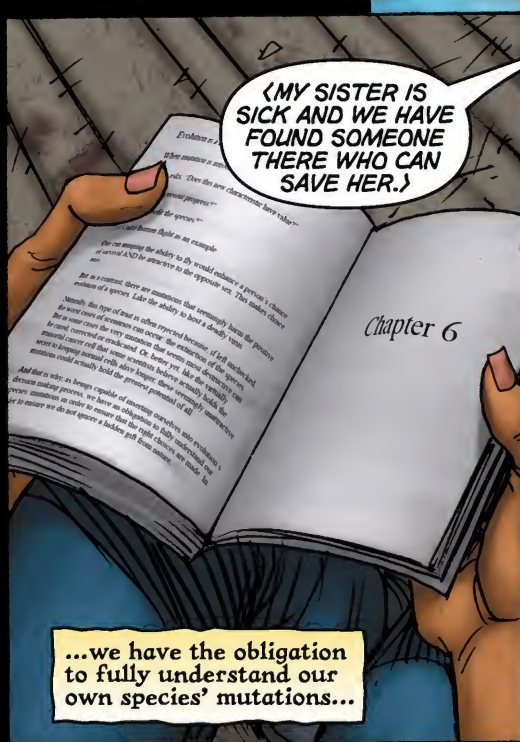
PERFECTO.



<I CAN TAKE YOU AS FAR AS SAN CRISTOBAL.>

<THANKS. WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO AMERICA. BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.>

And that is why, as beings capable of inserting ourselves into evolution's decision making process...



<MY SISTER IS SICK AND WE HAVE FOUND SOMEONE THERE WHO CAN SAVE HER.>

...we have the obligation to fully understand our own species' mutations...



...in order to ensure that the right choices are made.

In order to ensure we do not ignore...

...a hidden gift from nature.

--an excerpt from Chapter 5 of 'Activating Evolution' by Chandra Suresh.



HEROES

CHAPTER 52

Flying Blind

Clare Bennet and her family moved to sunny Southern California to begin life anew... and to hide from the mysterious company. The invincible cheerleader had left behind her extraordinary life of flying men and super strong women.
Or did she?

COSTA VERDE,
CALIFORNIA.

LAST NIGHT.

I HAVE A
SECRET.

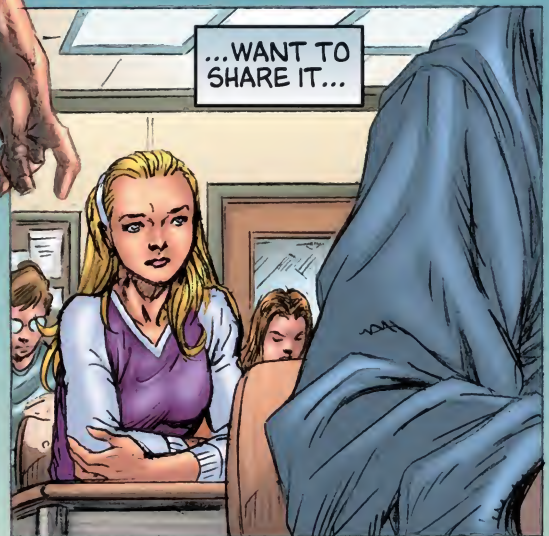
CHRISTINE BOYLAN *Story*
TOM GRUMMETT *Art*
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR *Colors*
COMICRAFT *Lettering*
NANCI QUESADA *Editor*

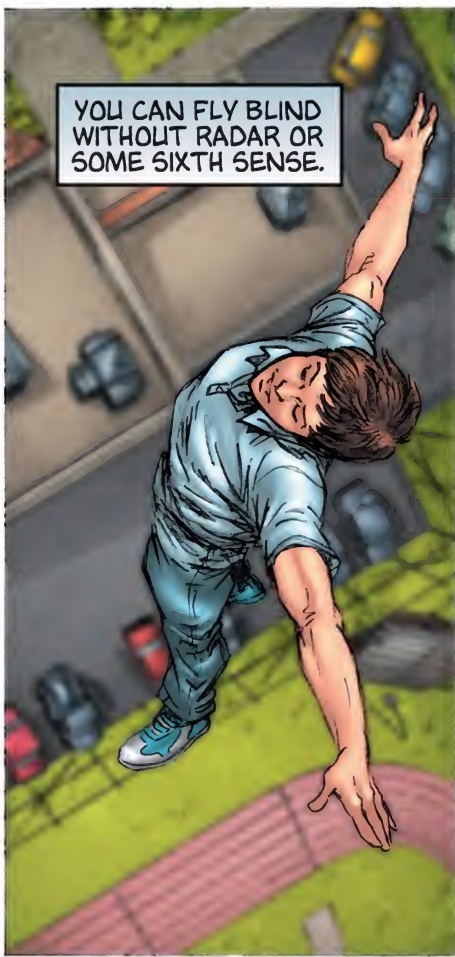
Flying BLIND



SOME KIDS DON'T APPRECIATE
THE STIGMA OF BEING GIFTED
AND TALENTED.

I LOVE THE HELL
OUT OF IT.





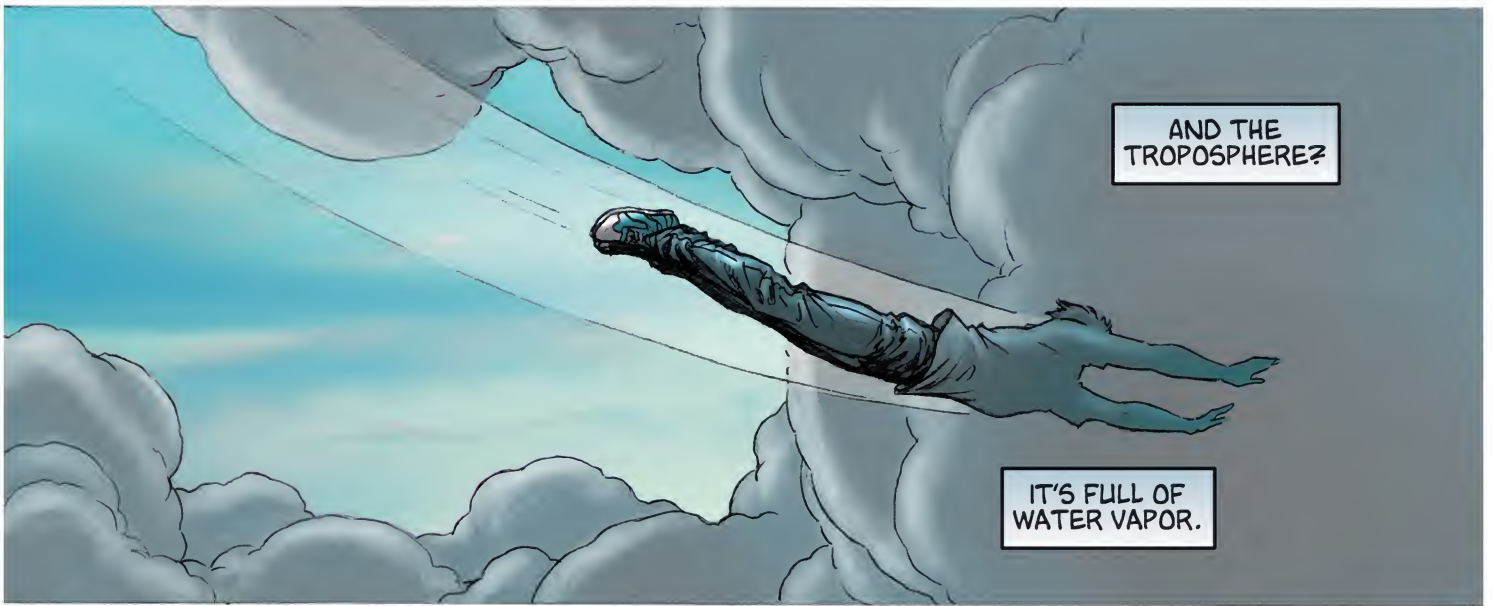
YOU CAN FLY BLIND WITHOUT RADAR OR SOME SIXTH SENSE.



WE LIVE IN THE TROPOSPHERE, FOR EXAMPLE. ONE LAYER IN A MANY-LAYERED ATMOSPHERE, AND WITHIN THE TROPOSPHERE ARE EVEN MORE LAYERS.



TO ME, EACH OF THOSE LAYERS HAS A DIFFERENT SCENT. ONE OF THEM, AND I MEAN THIS SINCERELY, SMELLS LIKE PIZZA.



AND THE TROPOSPHERE?

IT'S FULL OF WATER VAPOR.



SO MUCH MORE FUN THAN RUNNING THROUGH A SPRINKLER.



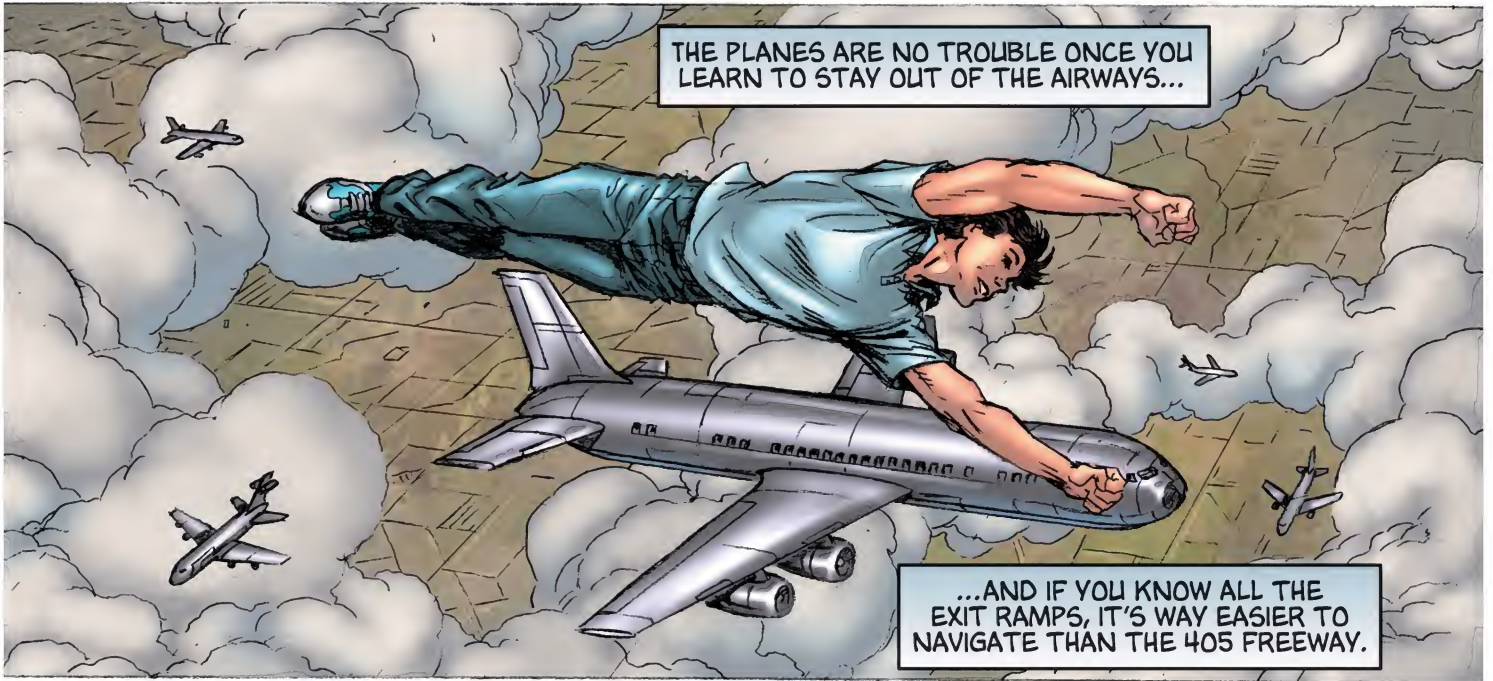
I'M NOT SHOWING OFF. THERE'S NO ONE AROUND TO SHOW OFF TO, RIGHT?



BUT I LOVE HITTING THE STRATOSPHERE.

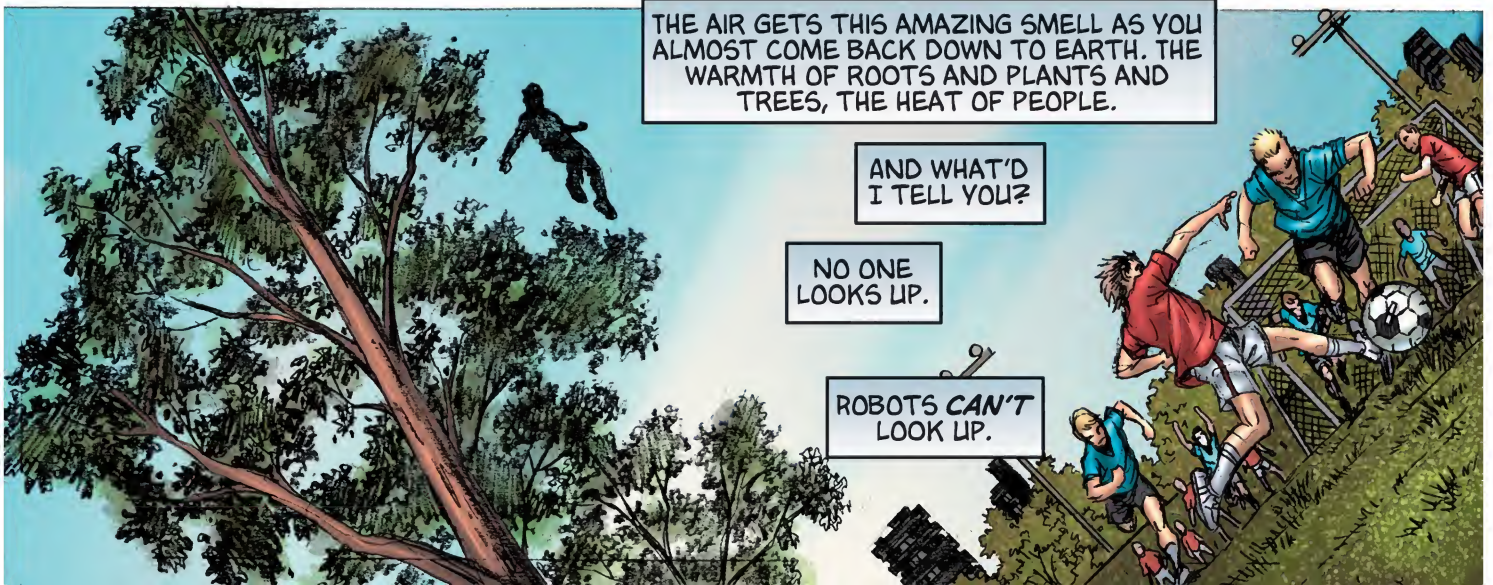


THOUGH IT'S BEST TO BRING A SWEATER.



THE PLANES ARE NO TROUBLE ONCE YOU LEARN TO STAY OUT OF THE AIRWAYS...

...AND IF YOU KNOW ALL THE EXIT RAMPs, IT'S WAY EASIER TO NAVIGATE THAN THE 405 FREEWAY.



THE AIR GETS THIS AMAZING SMELL AS YOU ALMOST COME BACK DOWN TO EARTH. THE WARMTH OF ROOTS AND PLANTS AND TREES, THE HEAT OF PEOPLE.

AND WHAT'D I TELL YOU?

NO ONE LOOKS UP.

ROBOTS *CAN'T* LOOK UP.



**COSTA VERDE,
CALIFORNIA.**

THIS MORNING.

**SEE, I HAVE
THIS THEORY.**

**WHETHER IT'S FATE
OR CHOICE...**



**...PEOPLE BREAK
DOWN INTO ONLY
TWO CATEGORIES.**

**YOU'RE EITHER A
ROBOT OR AN ALIEN.**



**MY DEBATE TEACHER
WOULD CALL THAT
REDUCTIVE.**

**I CALL IT A NEAT
EXPRESSION OF A
LARGER TRUTH.**



**ROBOTS OPERATE
OUT OF PROGRAMS...**

**...CONVENTIONAL
LOGIC.**

**THEY FOLLOW
THE RULES.**

**ROBOTS SCAN THE WORLD
FROM SIDE TO SIDE.**



**ALIENS ARE MORE...
ABSTRACT THINKERS.**

**IF THEY NEED TO BREAK
A RULE TO KEEP TO
THEIR OWN PATHS, THEY
DO. WITHOUT FEAR.**



**ALIENS LOOK DOWN AND
UP...WHEN THEY CHOOSE TO.**



**I'M NOT CONDEMNING
ONE OR THE OTHER, BUT...**



**...I'D RATHER BE ALONE
THAN BE SURROUNDED BY
ROBOTS. AND ROBOTS COULD
NEVER EVEN SEE
SOMEONE LIKE ME.**



SO I FLEW
ALL NIGHT...

...AND BOY,
ARE MY ARMS...

...EMPTY.

IS THAT
THE
WORD I'M
LOOKING
FOR?

"HI, CLAIRE.
YOU SEEM
LIKE THE
KIND OF GIRL
WHO LOOKS
UP ONCE IN A
WHILE. LIKE
AN ALIEN,
AND I MEAN
THAT IN
THE BEST
POSSIBLE
WAY.
WANNA GET
COFFEE?"

MORNING.

HEY.

*The
END*



HEROES

CHAPTER 53

The Crossroads

The mysterious Haitian, stricken with a mysterious virus, has returned to his native soil to die. Dr. Mohinder Suresh arrived in Port-au-Prince to cure him. The Haitian then vanished, with Suresh apparently his latest victim. But not all was as it seemed...

PORT-AU-PRINCE,
HAITI

"...THEN THE CONTACT WILL GET YOU TO COSTA VERDE, CALIFORNIA. BENNET SAYS YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND HIM FROM THERE."

MEANWHILE, THE COMPANY WILL FIND ME HERE, "STUNNED AND BEWILDERED." DISAPPOINTED, SURELY, BUT NONE THE WISER...

I'M SORRY... DON'T YOU NEED TO WRITE ANY OF THIS DOWN?

MEMORY IS NOT AN ISSUE FOR ME.

DO NOT WORRY, DR. SURESH. THE PLAN IS SOUND. I WILL GET TO BENNET...

...IF GOD TRULY BELIEVES I DESERVE TO.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT GOD, BUT MY FATHER USED TO SAY THAT ALL MEN DESERVED A SECOND CHANCE... GOOD MEN DESERVED THREE.

WHATEVER YOU DID WITH THE COMPANY... THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT RIGHT, BY HELPING US TAKE THEM DOWN.

CONSIDER YOURSELF BLESSED TO HAVE HAD... SUCH A COMPASSIONATE FATHER.

I WILL JOIN YOUR CRUSADE, SURESH... BUT FIRST...




"...THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST DO."

THE CROSSROADS. I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE SINCE THE DAY MY FATHER THREW HIMSELF FROM ITS PEAK...

NOTHING HAS CHANGED. EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED.

The CROSSROADS


JOE KELLY OF MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS MICHAEL GAYDOS Story Art CHRIS SOTOMAYOR Colors COMICRAFT Lettering NANCI QUESADA Editor



I DO NOT PRACTICE THE OLD WAYS AS MY FATHER DID...


...BUT ONE CANNOT BE THE CHILD OF A GREAT *HOLINGAN* AND FAIL TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE CONTACT WITH *LES INVISIBLES*. SPIRITS.

I KNOW MY *HERBS*. I KNOW MY *SYMBOLS*.

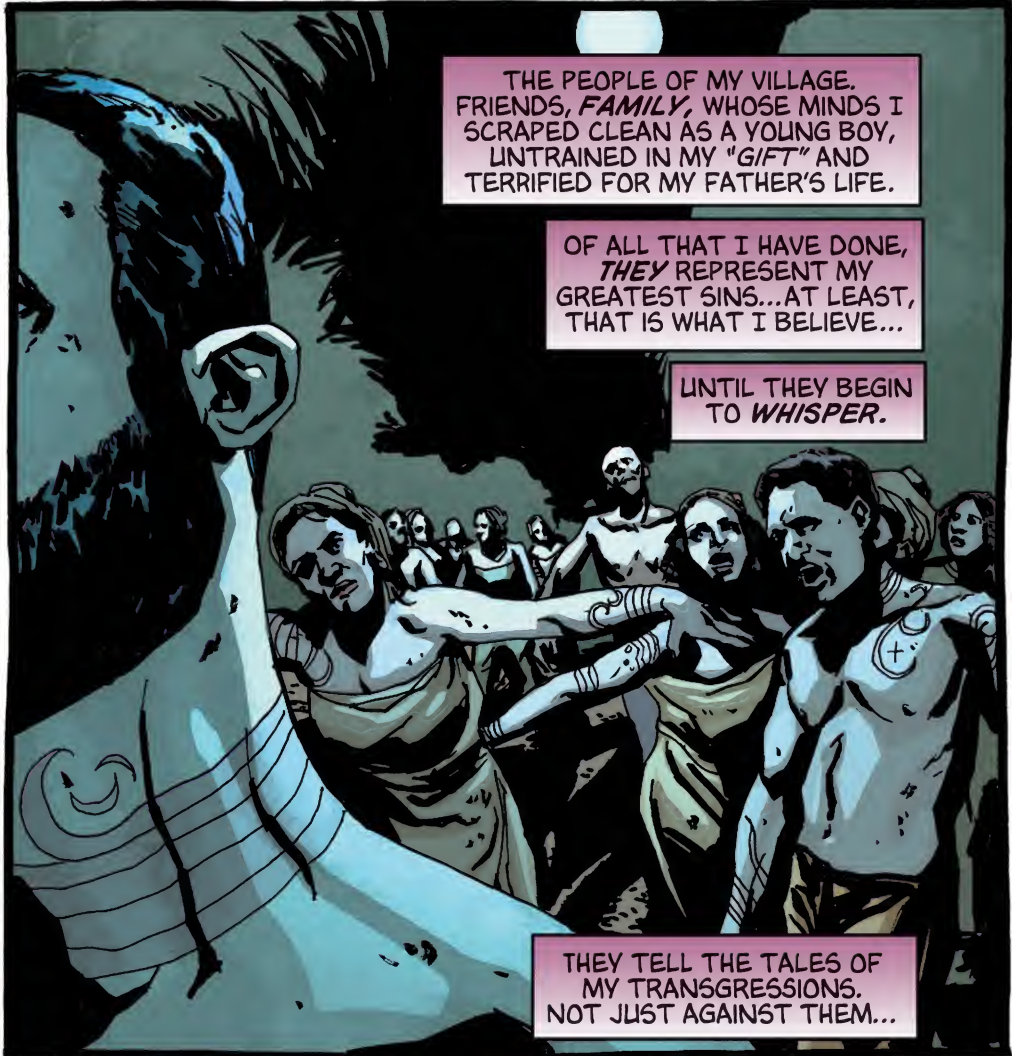


THE SUMMONING CEREMONY IS A SIMPLE MATTER REALLY, ESPECIALLY HERE, WHERE THE VEIL BETWEEN LIGHT AND SHADE IS AT ITS THINNEST...

...SIMPLE AS DYING.



I KNEW *THEY* WOULD
APPEAR TO ME
FIRST...BUT I DID
NOT ANTICIPATE HOW
MUCH IT WOULD *HURT*.




THE PEOPLE OF MY VILLAGE.
FRIENDS, *FAMILY*, WHOSE MINDS I
SCRAPED CLEAN AS A YOUNG BOY,
UNTRAINED IN MY "*GIFT*" AND
TERRIFIED FOR MY FATHER'S LIFE.

OF ALL THAT I HAVE DONE,
THEY REPRESENT MY
GREATEST SINS...AT LEAST,
THAT IS WHAT I BELIEVE...


UNTIL THEY BEGIN
TO *WHISPER*.

THEY TELL THE TALES OF
MY TRANSGRESSIONS.
NOT JUST AGAINST THEM...




...BUT AGAINST EVERY PERSON
I'VE EVER "*BAGGED AND
TAGGED*" IN THE NAME OF
"*THE COMPANY*." *EVERY ONE*.

IT TAKES HALF THE NIGHT.



I WANT TO BEG FOR
FORGIVENESS, BUT
I MUST NOT.

PENITENCE IS *WEAKNESS*
ACCORDING TO THE *OLD WAYS*.
TO SURVIVE, I MUST *ACCEPT*
WHAT THE SPIRITS GIVE ME AND
ENDURE WHO I HAVE BEEN...



...IF I AM
EVER TO
BECOME
SOMETHING
ELSE.



SOMETHING ELSE?!

AS GROWS THE VINE SO GROWS THE FRUIT! YOU ARE YOUR FATHER'S SON! HE WHO WAS FAVORED BY THE LOA WITH POWER BUT SOUGHT ONLY SELFISH GAINS!

YOU ARE WEAK! YOU ARE BROKEN! YOU WILL DIE HERE AS HE DID BEFORE YOU!

WHY DID YOU COME HERE?!
FORGIVENESS?!

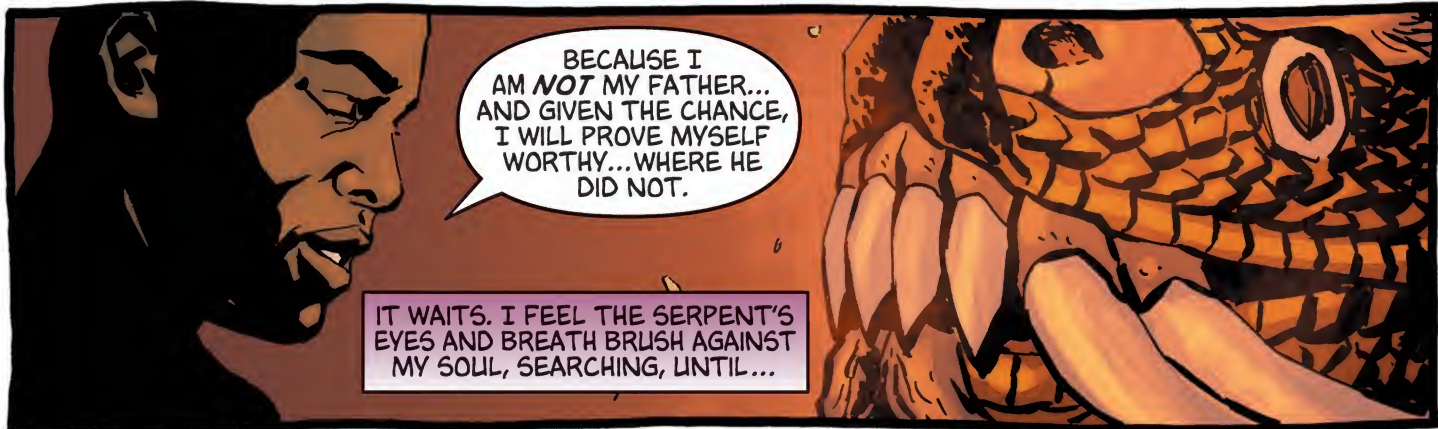


I CAME FOR A BLESSING.

FROM YOU. FROM THE LOA. FROM THOSE WRETCHED WHO HAVE FALLEN BECAUSE OF MY ARROGANCE AND BLINDNESS...

BECAUSE I WANT MY LIFE TO COUNT FOR SOMETHING GOOD BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

I CAME HERE, BECAUSE...



BECAUSE I AM *NOT* MY FATHER... AND GIVEN THE CHANCE, I WILL PROVE MYSELF WORTHY... WHERE HE DID NOT.

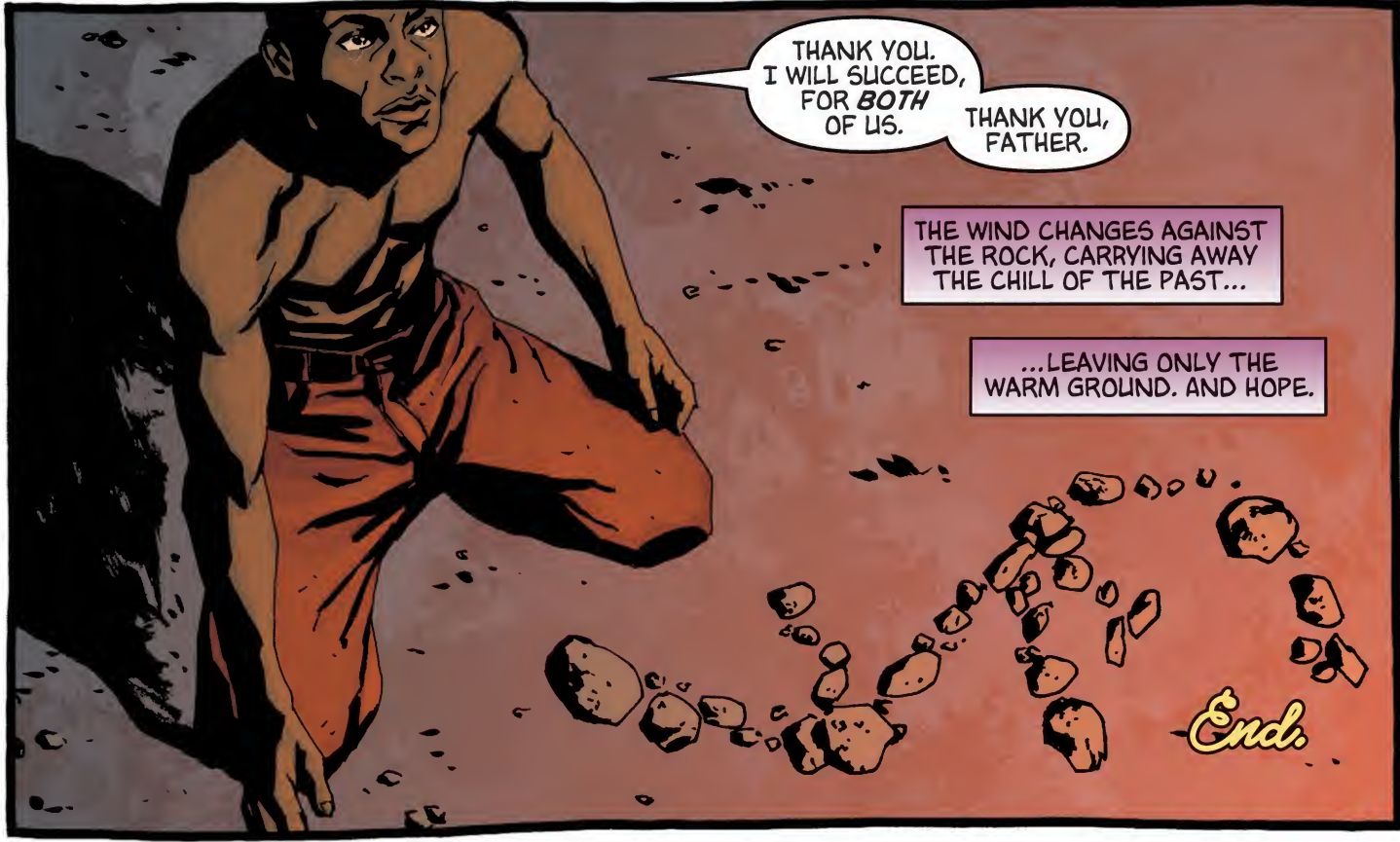
IT WAITS. I FEEL THE SERPENT'S EYES AND BREATH BRUSH AGAINST MY SOUL, SEARCHING, UNTIL...



YOU *HAVE* REMEMBERED THE GROUND FROM WHICH YOU WERE BORN, BOY...



THE BLESSING IS GIVEN.

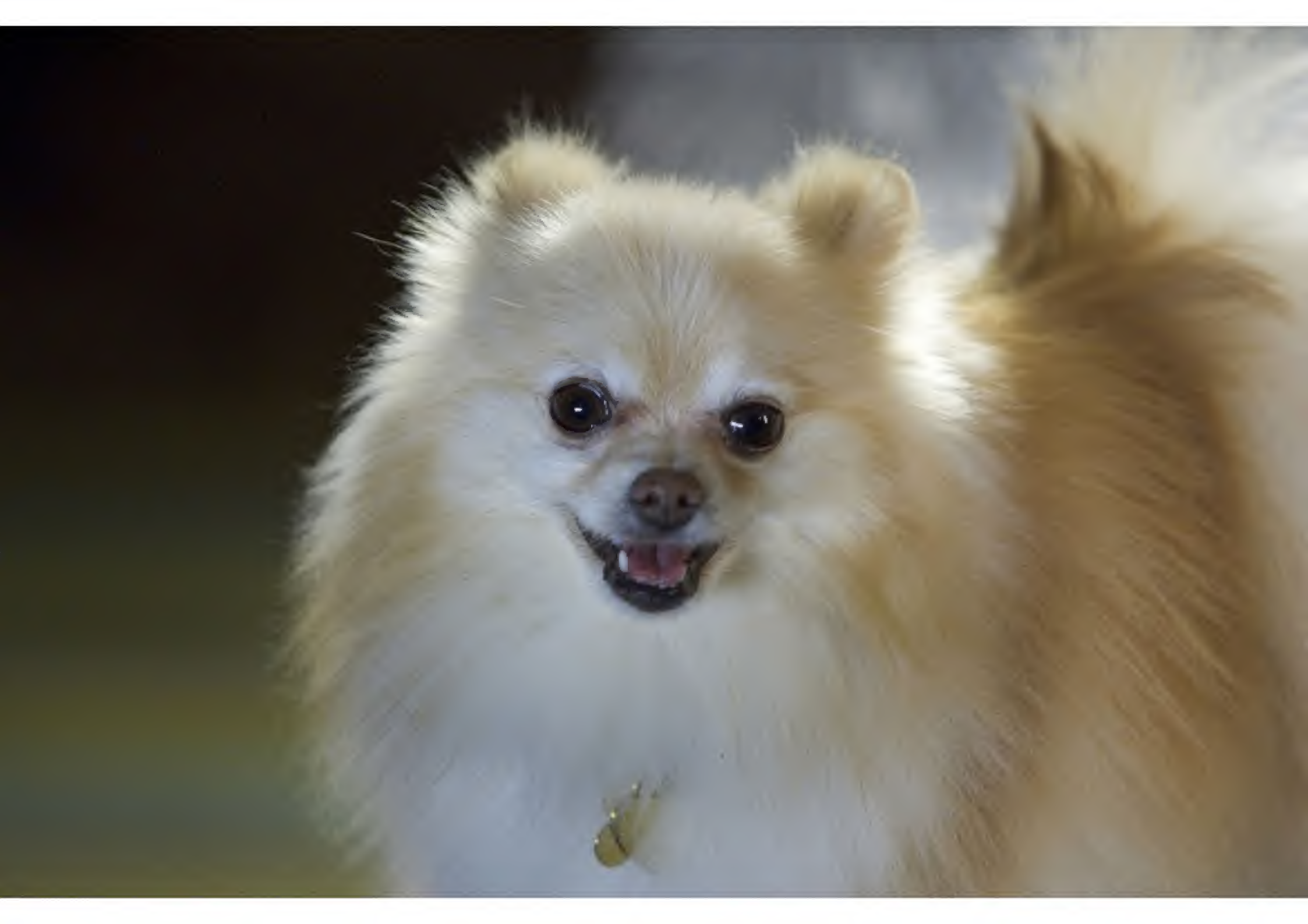


THANK YOU. I WILL SUCCEED, FOR *BOTH* OF US. THANK YOU, FATHER.

THE WIND CHANGES AGAINST THE ROCK, CARRYING AWAY THE CHILL OF THE PAST...

...LEAVING ONLY THE WARM GROUND. AND HOPE.

End.



HEROES

CHAPTER 54

Petrified Lightning

Peter, suffering from amnesia, is discovered in Cork, Ireland by a gang of small time thieves. Peter is driven to find out who he is and where he came from. Ricky, the gang's leader, has presented him with a box that could lead him to his true past. But Peter has begun to question whether he should forget the box and simply start life over with his new love, Caitlin...



I THOUGHT WE DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW?



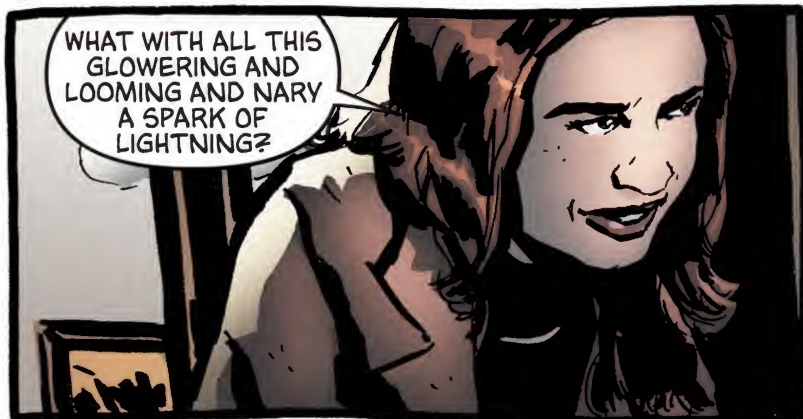
WE, HUH?



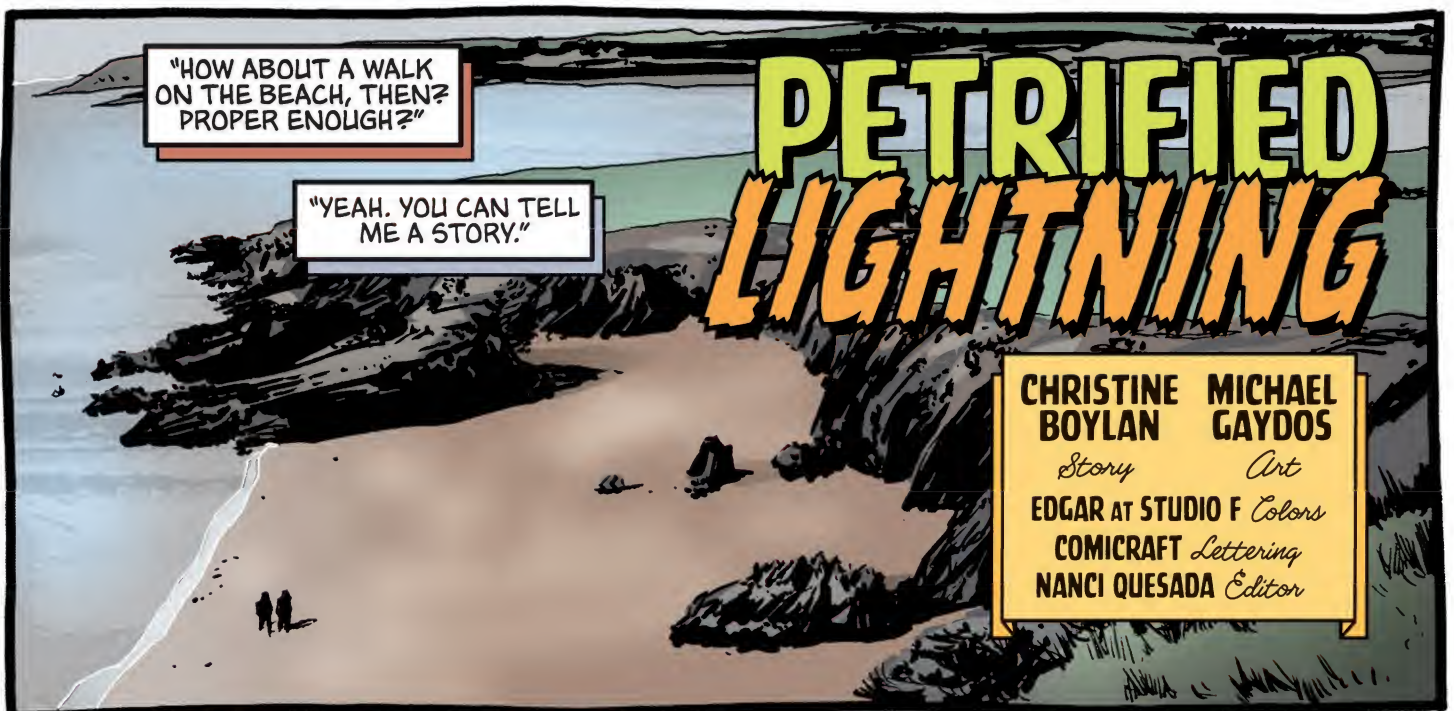
I WANNA TAKE YOU ON A DATE, CAITLIN.

A PROPER DATE.

THIS THE TIME TO BE TALKING OF DATES?



WHAT WITH ALL THIS GLOWING AND LOOMING AND NARY A SPARK OF LIGHTNING?



"HOW ABOUT A WALK ON THE BEACH, THEN? PROPER ENOUGH?"

"YEAH. YOU CAN TELL ME A STORY."

PETRIFIED LIGHTNING

CHRISTINE BOYLAN	MICHAEL GAYDOS
<i>Story</i>	<i>Art</i>
EDGAR AT STUDIO F	<i>Colors</i>
COMICRAFT	<i>Lettering</i>
NANCI QUESADA	<i>Editor</i>



WHAT, ANOTHER IRISH TALE FOR THE AMERICAN BOY?

YES. PLEASE.



LIGHTNING. LIGHTNING!

WHO ABOUT? THE OLD DOGS AROUND HERE SAY ANYONE WHO'S *ANYONE* WAS IRISH, AFTER ALL. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, CLEOPATRA, JULIUS CAESAR...

CÚCHULAINN, PLEASE.



OH, THE GREAT HERO CÚCHULAINN!

**SNAP
SNAP**



ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION?

YES. SORRY.



IN ORDER TO TAKE ULSTER AND MAKE HIMSELF A KING, CÚCHULAINN NEEDED A SWORD AND SHIELD MADE FROM THE GREAT SMITHY ON THE ISLE OF MAN.

"WHILE HE WAITED FOR HIS WEAPONS TO BE MADE, HE WALKED ALONG THE STRAND NEAR THE SMITHY, IMPATIENT TO GET OUT AND GET CONQUERING."



"ONE DAY HE SAW SOMETHING GLISTEN IN THE SAND. SOMETHING THAT CAME FROM SO DEEP WITHIN NATURE THAT IT SEEMED... UNNATURAL."



"WHAT HE SAW WAS TEEVAL, YOUNG QUEEN OF THE SEVEN SEAS. A MERMAID."



MERMAID?!



EXCUSE ME? YOU OF ALL PEOPLE OUGHT TO BELIEVE IN WILD CREATURES.

ARE YOU CALLING ME A WILD --



OW! DAMMIT!



STOP MESSING ABOUT AND PAY ATTENTION, OR NO MORE STORIES.

SORRY.

"SO CÚCHULAINN, THIS GOD, THIS BIG DUMB HERO, COMES LUMBERING PAST AND SEES THE SLEEPING QUEEN OF THE SEA."



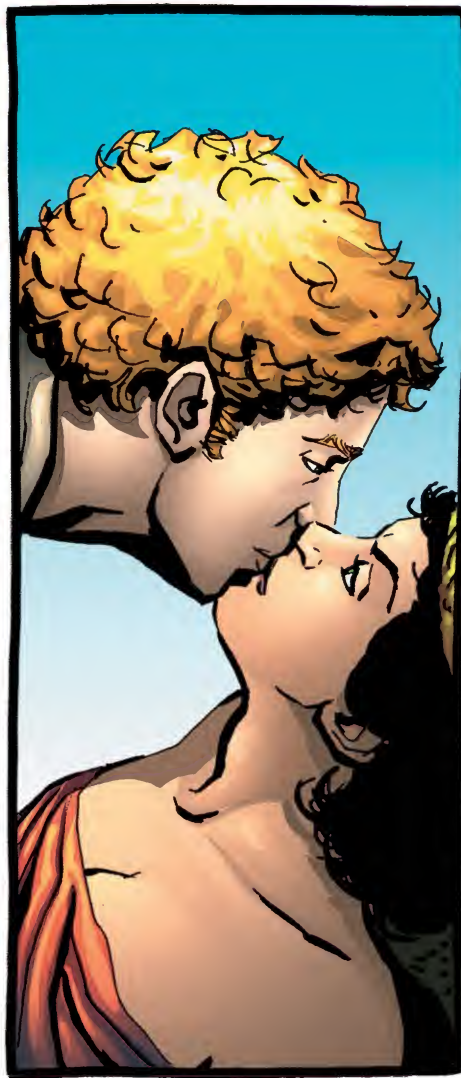
"AND THE SIMPLE BRUTE, IRELAND'S GREATEST MAN, TIES HER UP."

"WHAT KIND OF STORY IS THIS, CAITLIN?"

"SHHH."



"WELL, SHE WOKE UP IN A RIGHT RAGE AT FIRST -- FORGETTING HER OWN POWER AT THE SHOCK OF HER PREDICAMENT."



"BUT SHE SOON RECOVERED HERSELF."

"SHE LOOKED HIM DEAD IN THE EYE. SHE KNEW HIM. SHE NAMED HIM."



LET ME GO, MORTAL.

NO. I CAN'T. I'LL LOSE YOU.



"AND SHE MADE HIM AN OFFER."

UNBIND ME, AND I WILL GIVE YOU SOMETHING MORE USEFUL THAN MYSELF.



BUT I...I LOVE YOU.

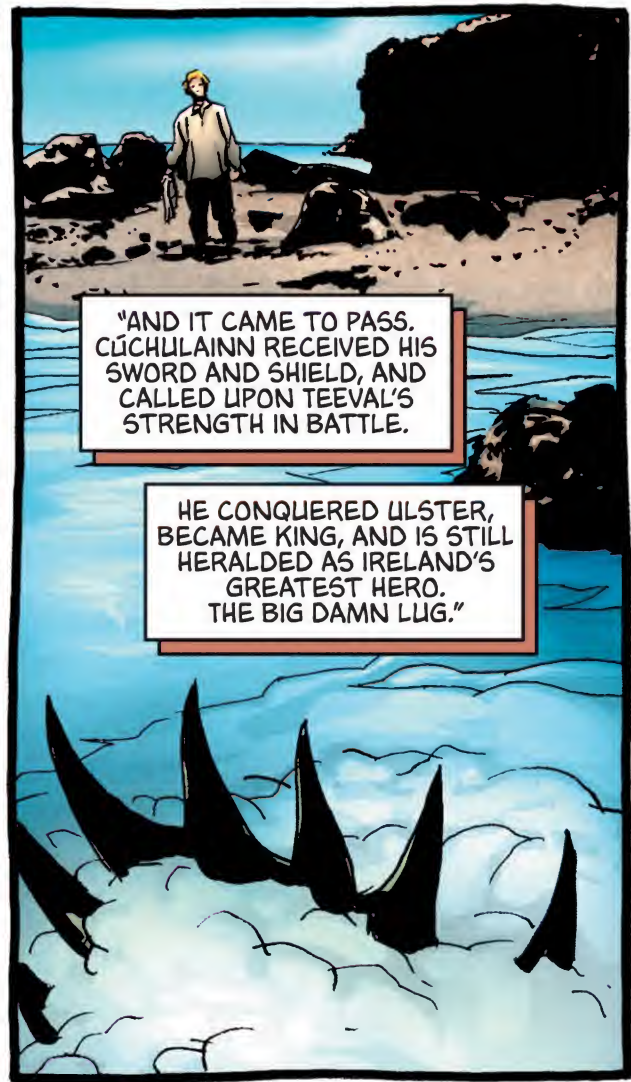
DON'T BE FOOLISH. DO YOU WANT TO CONQUER THE LAND OR DROWN WITH ME IN THE SEA?



GO TO THE SMITHY. TELL THE ARTISAN TO CARVE MY NAME AND IMAGE ON THE INSIDE OF YOUR SHIELD, JUST AS YOU SEE ME NOW.



IN BATTLE, LOOK YOU ON THE SHIELD AND CALL MY NAME, AND YOUR STRENGTH WILL BE MULTIPLIED EVEN AS YOUR ENEMIES WEAKEN AND FALL.



"AND IT CAME TO PASS. CÚCHULAINN RECEIVED HIS SWORD AND SHIELD, AND CALLED UPON TEEVAL'S STRENGTH IN BATTLE.

HE CONQUERED ULSTER, BECAME KING, AND IS STILL HERALDED AS IRELAND'S GREATEST HERO. THE BIG DAMN LUG."



SHE GAVE HIM HIS POWER.

IF YOU LIKE, OR SHE SHOWED HIM HIS OWN POWER. TRICK OF THE MIND.

BUT HE LOST HER.

HE DID AT THAT.

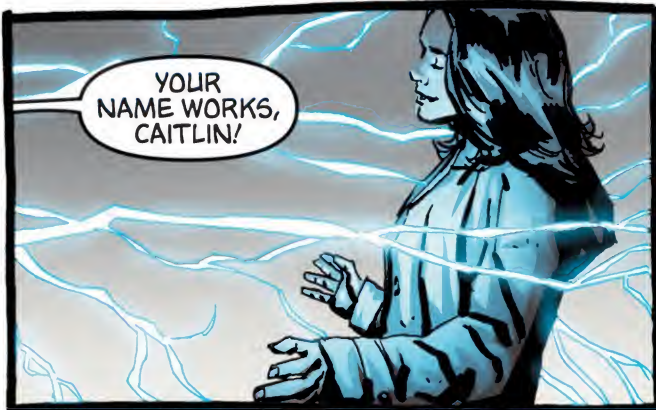


LET'S SEE IF IT WORKS.

WHAT?



CAITLIN!



YOUR NAME WORKS, CAITLIN!

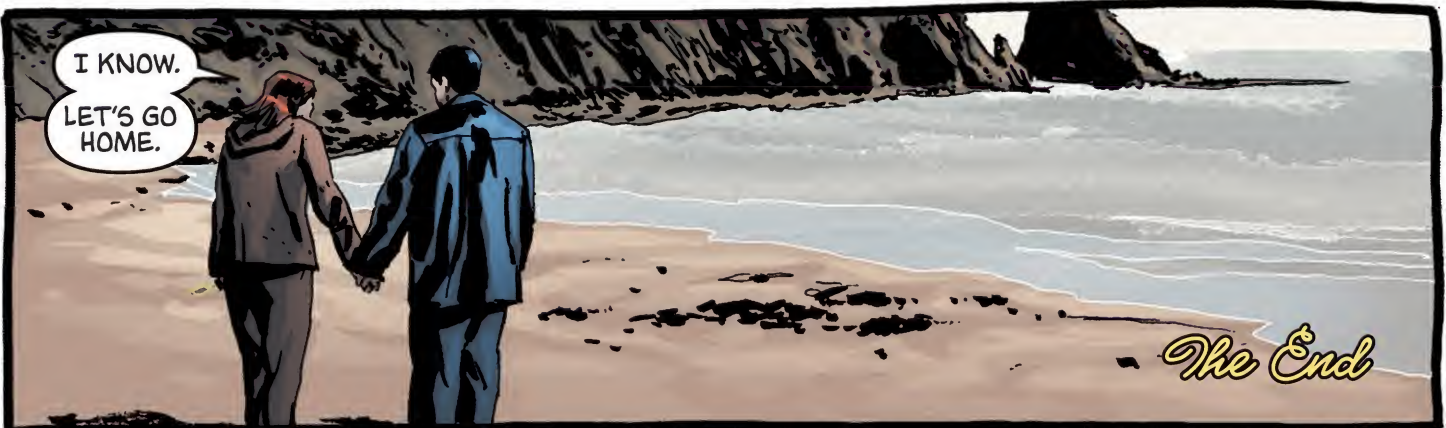


THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LIGHTNING HITS THE BEACH. IT MAKES GLASS. THEY'RE CALLED FULGURITES.

PETRIFIED LIGHTNING.



I CAN HEAR WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.



I KNOW. LET'S GO HOME.

The End



HEROES

CHAPTER 55

The Trial of the Black Bear

Takezo Kensei is one of Japan's most beloved historical figures. His tales, based on actual events, have now become a blend of legend and fact. Kensei is recognized for saving his countrymen from a terrible and tyrannical warlord. But how the fabled swordsman accomplished this is still interpreted from many different perspectives...

THE MIGHTY SAMURAI TAKEZO KENSEI MUST FIND THE SECRET LAIR OF THE EVIL WHITE BEARD!

THE TRAIL HAS LED HIM TO A MAP SCROLL... AND ITS LEGENDARY GUARDIAN...

LOOK, HIRO!
THERE HE IS, THE
BLACK BEAR OF
SAKKASHITA!

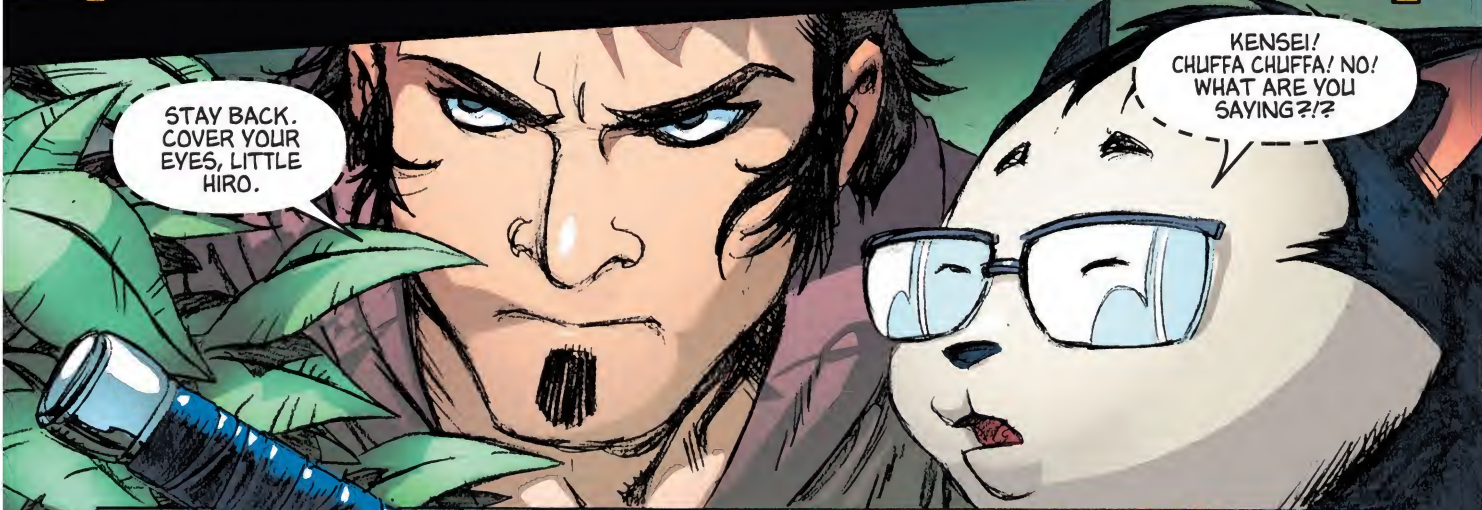


9TH WONDERS!
MANGA
CLASSICS
presents...

TAKEZO KENSEI in

The **TRIAL** *of the* **BLACK BEAR**

CHUCK KIM *Story* TOM GRUMMETT *Art* EDGAR AT STUDIO F *Colors* COMICRAFT *Lettering* NANCI QUESADA *Editor*



STAY BACK.
COVER YOUR
EYES, LITTLE
HIRO.

KENSEI!
CHUFFA CHUFFA! NO!
WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING?!?



FLICK
GLEEN!



BLACK BEAR OF SAKKASHITA! YOU WHO GUARD THE LOCATION OF WHITE BEARD'S HIDDEN FORTRESS! SURRENDER THE SCROLL!



BY DEFEATING WHITE BEARD, I WILL SURELY WIN THE PRINCESS' HEART!

SHE WILL MAKE ME HER...



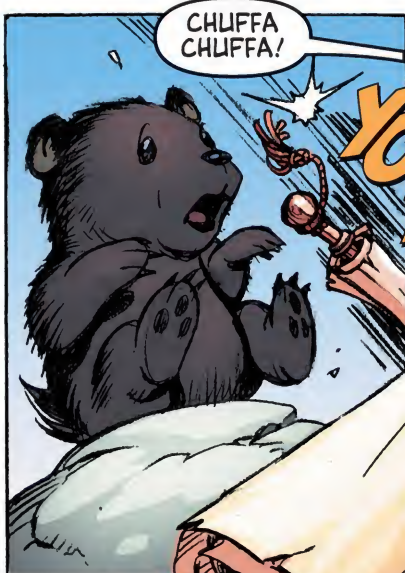




GGRRRRRRR

ROODAAARRR

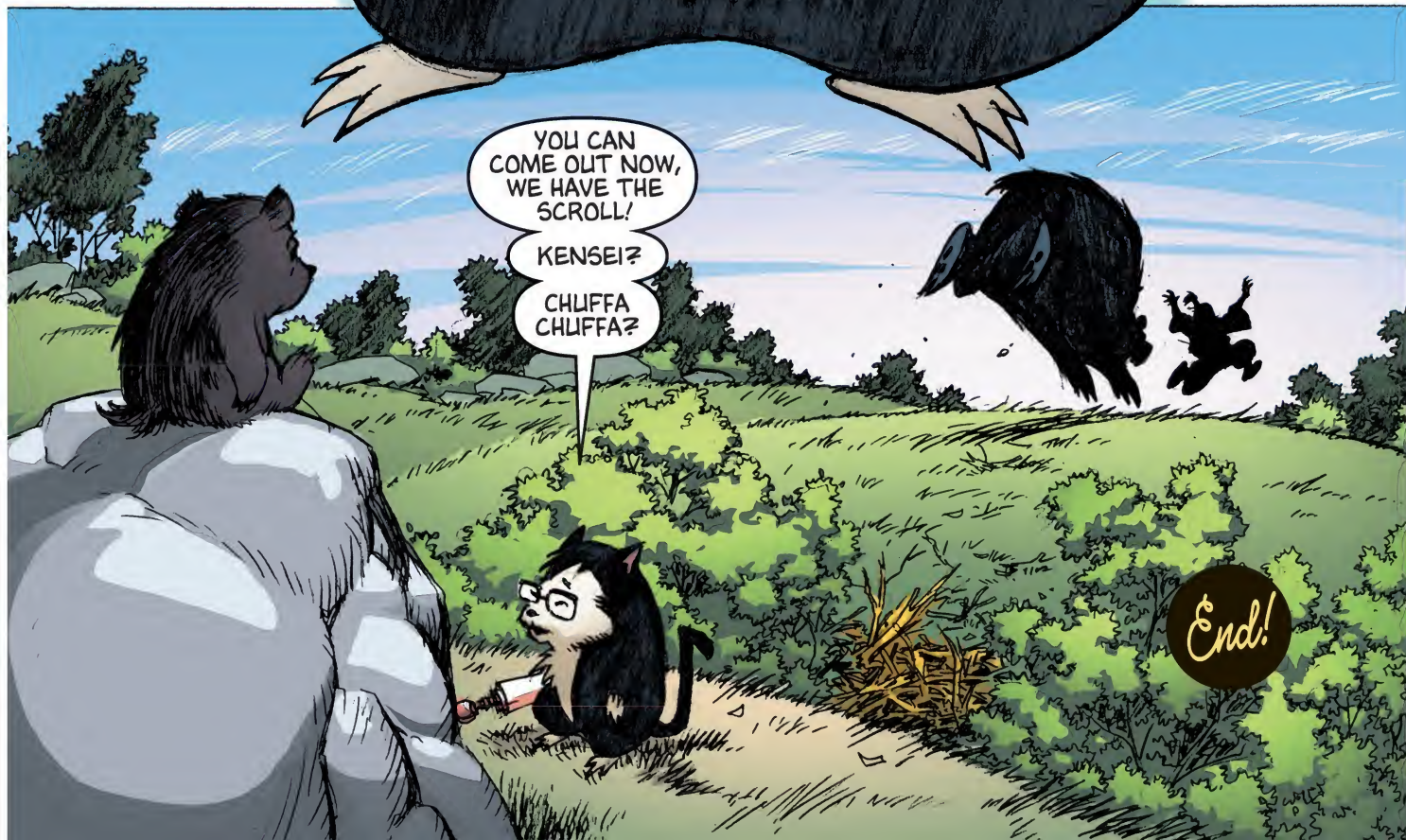




YOU CAN
COME OUT NOW,
WE HAVE THE
SCROLL!

KENSEI?

CHUFFA
CHUFFA?



End!



HEROES

CHAPTER 56

MOLLY'S DREAM

Molly Walker has been suffering from horrific visions and dreams. Her guardians, Matt Parkman and Mohinder Suresh are at a loss as to how to help her. The problem reaches its boiling point when Matt asks her to use her special ability to locate Maury Parkman. To Matt, Maury is his long lost deadbeat father. To Molly, however, he is the terrifying Nightmare Man...

WHAT DO WE DO?

I DON'T KNOW! WHAT DID YOU DO?

I WAS JUST TRYING... IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.

CAN'T YOU REVIVE HER OR SOMETHING?

SHE'S NOT A MACHINE, MATT. THERE ISN'T A MANUAL FOR COMA REVIVAL.

THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO. I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR HER TO WAKE UP.



MATT!



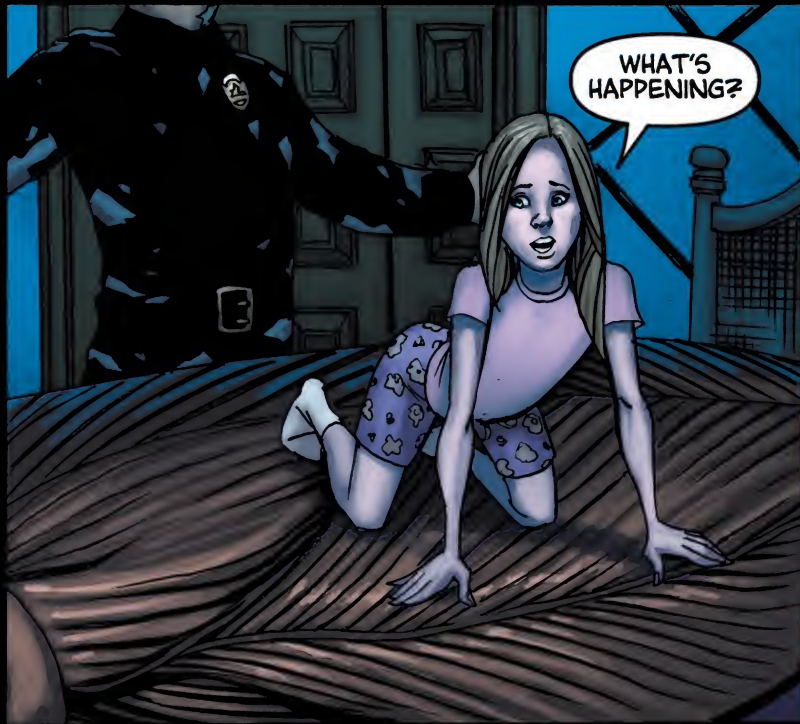
MATT?



MOLLY'S DREAM



HARRISON WILCOX <i>Story</i>	RYAN ODAGAWA <i>Art</i>	JOHN STARR <i>Colors</i> An ASPEN MLT INC. Production	COMICRAFT <i>Lettering</i>
--	---------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------------



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



MOHINDER --
HELP ME!

CHIRK
CHIRK

AAAAHHH!



CRASH



LET ME OFF!
STOP IT
RIGHT --



SHA-
BOOM



SPLAT



NO NO
NO NO NO
NO!

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK



NO! NOT YOU!
YOU'RE DEAD!

AND NOW
I'M BACK FOR YOU
AND YOUR SWEET
LITTLE MIND.



NONE OF THIS
IS REAL. AND
YOU'RE NOT THE
BOOGIEMAN.



YOU'RE
RIGHT,
MOLLY...



EEEEK!

IT'S NOT REAL...

IT'S SOMETHING I MADE JUST FOR YOU, AND IT'S MUCH, MUCH WORSE...

AAAAAAAAHHH!

The End?



HEROES

CHAPTER 57 TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

To protect his plan to destroy the mysterious "Company," Noah Bennet murdered Ivan, his former mentor and friend. Ivan underestimated Noah's ruthless drive and paid for it with his life. But it was not the first time he failed to see the depth of the man in horned-rimmed glasses...

0 DESSA, RUSSIA,
18 YEARS AGO.

HE WENT
THROUGH
THERE!

STAY OUT OF THE WAY,
NOAH. LET US SHOW YOU
HOW *REAL* COMPANY
MEN HUNT.

YOU'RE
THE BOSS.

MY FIRST "BAG AND
TAG". THE COMPANY'S
NEW PROGRAM TO
KEEP TABS ON THE
GENETICALLY GIFTED.

THE COMPANY DECIDED TO GO WITH
A LESS... *LETHAL* WAY OF DEALING
WITH THOSE WITH ABILITIES. TRAP 'UM,
TAG 'UM, AND RELEASE 'UM. LIKE...
BIOLOGISTS, OUT IN THE FIELD.

I'M HERE ON THIS TRAINING
EXERCISE TO TAKE NOTES.
SEE HOW UPPER MANAGEMENT
IS AT HANDLING THE NEW
OPERATING SYSTEM.

I'VE NEVER BEEN
MUCH OF AN
OBSERVER --
I'M MORE THE
HANDS-ON TYPE.
LET'S SEE IF I CAN'T
GET MY HANDS
DIRTY A *LITTLE*
THOUGH.

TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

PIERLUIGI COTHRAN Story
TRAVIS KOTZEBUE Art
JOHN STARR Colors
COMICRAFT Lettering
An ASPEN MLT INC. Production



WE WOULDN'T
WANT THEM
HAVING ALL THE
FUN NOW,
WOULD WE?

THIS NEW SYSTEM POSES A FEW PROBLEMS. PARTNER PAIRING IS KEY.

WITH IVAN AND MAARTEN, THERE'S TOO MUCH *BRAWN*, NO *FINESSE*.



*EDITOR'S NOTE: TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.

<STAY WHERE YOU ARE!>*

<WHY ARE YOU CHASING ME!? PLEASE. LEAVE ME ALONE!>

<WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. STAY WHERE YOU ARE.>



WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO CAPTURE A CAT, YOU NEED A HINT OF *SUBTLETY*, LEST YOU SCARE THE CAT INTO REALIZING IT'S IN FACT, A *LION*.

<STOP!>



MAY I MAKE A FEW... SUGGESTIONS?





BAM

"WE NEED TO FUNNEL HIM THROUGH TO THE LAST ROW OF BOXCARS. CUTTING OFF HIS ROUTES OF ESCAPE."

"IVAN, YOUR JOB IS TO PUSH HIM IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION."



WHEN DEALING WITH POWERS, ANY NUMBER OF THINGS CAN GO WRONG. THIS IS WHY YOU NEED TO CONTROL THE ENVIRONMENT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

"YOUR JOB, MAARTEN, IS TO TAKE AWAY HIS EXIT OPTIONS."

MOST OF THESE PEOPLE AREN'T TRAINED. UNSURE OF EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF.

THEY REVERT BACK TO NORMAL HUMAN RESPONSES. SOMEONE FIRES A GUN AT YOU, YOU RUN THE OPPOSITE WAY.



BAM

BAM




BAM

EVEN IF YOUR BODY CAN MIMIC THE DENSITY OF WATER -- SPLASHING SOMEONE OUT OF FEAR AND REACTING TO A BALL OF FIRE OR A HAIL OF BULLETS IS A DIFFERENT STORY.




THESE TYPES OF SITUATIONS ARE **INVALUABLE** FOR US.



WE LEARN ABOUT THEIR INABILITY TO SEE THEMSELVES AS SOMETHING **MORE** THAN HUMAN. FOR THE MOST PART, THESE ANOMALIES FEAR **THEMSELVES** AS MUCH AS THEY FEAR **US**.

SO WHEN THEY ARE GIVEN THE CHOICE OF FIGHT OR FLIGHT, NINETY-NINE TIMES OUT OF A HUNDRED, WE KNOW THEY CHOOSE **FLIGHT**.



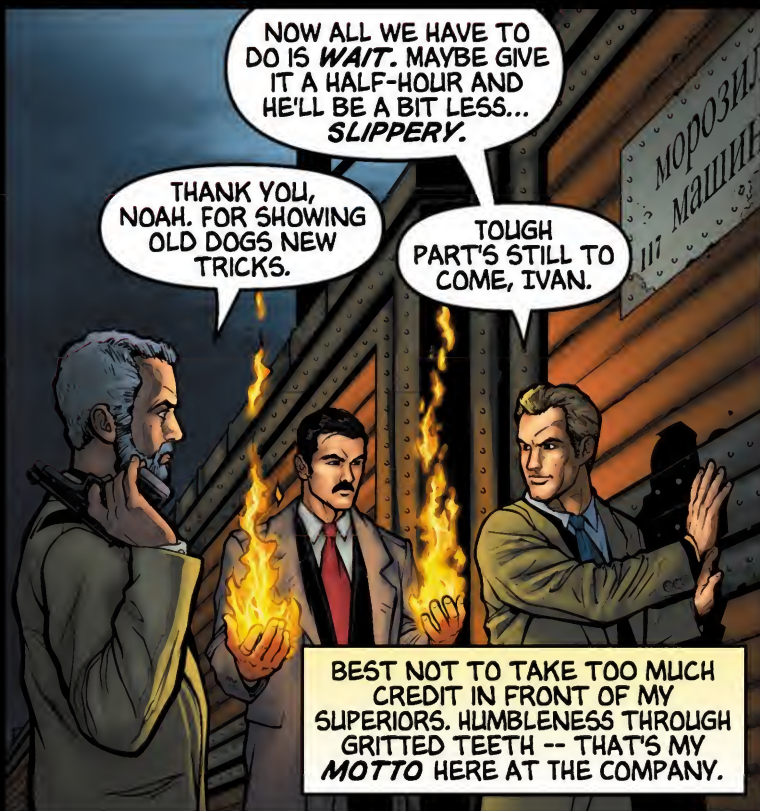
KNOWING THIS, WE CAN SET THE CAGE SO THEY FLY RIGHT **INTO** IT.



GOTCHA!

морозилка
машина

опасность
замораживающий



NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS *WAIT*. MAYBE GIVE IT A HALF-HOUR AND HE'LL BE A BIT LESS... *SLIPPERY*.

THANK YOU, NOAH. FOR SHOWING OLD DOGS NEW TRICKS.

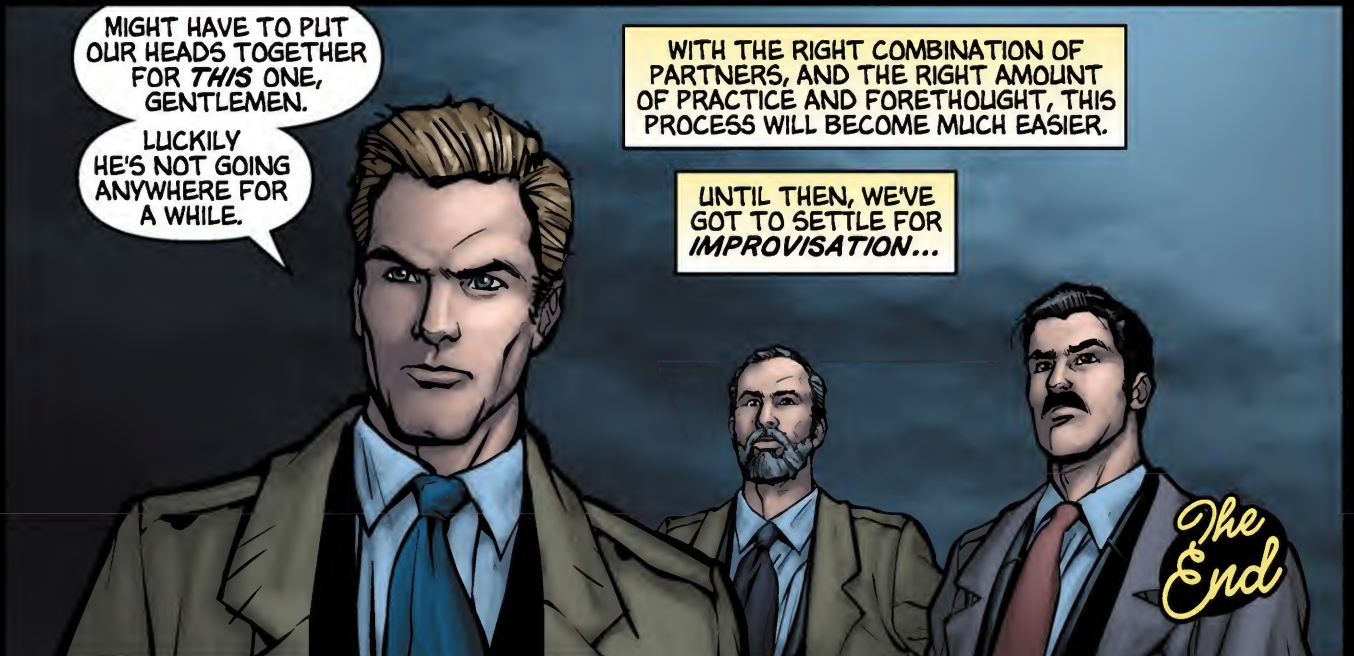
TOUGH PART'S STILL TO COME, IVAN.

BEST NOT TO TAKE TOO MUCH CREDIT IN FRONT OF MY SUPERIORS. HUMBLENESS THROUGH GRITTED TEETH -- THAT'S MY *MOTTO* HERE AT THE COMPANY.



WE *BAGGED* HIM, BUT HOW THE HELL'RE WE GOING TO *TAG* A MAN WHO CAN TURN HIS BODY WHOLLY INTO *LIQUID*?

AH, YES. THAT IS A GOOD POINT.



MIGHT HAVE TO PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER FOR *THIS* ONE, GENTLEMEN.

LUCKILY HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE FOR A WHILE.

WITH THE RIGHT COMBINATION OF PARTNERS, AND THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF PRACTICE AND FORETHOUGHT, THIS PROCESS WILL BECOME MUCH EASIER.

UNTIL THEN, WE'VE GOT TO SETTLE FOR *IMPROVISATION*...

The End




HEROES

CHAPTER 58 QUARANTINE

Peter got a glimpse into the future, that of a world ravaged by a single virus. Howard Lemay, an high ranking official in the Department of Homeland Security, is part of that reality. Though he fights valiantly, the Shanti virus may prove to overwhelm them all...

QUARANTINE


JIM MARTIN MARCUS TO MARK ROSLAN BETH SOTELO COMICRAFT *An* ASPEN MLT INC. *Production*
Story *Penciler* *Digital Inks* *Colors* *Lettering*



THE VIRUS WAS SPREADING TOO FAST TO STAY IN THE CITY... THE PARANOIA, THE IRRATIONALITY, THE FEAR...

IT'S TERRIFYING -- A VIRUS REDUCING AN AMERICAN CITY INTO A THIRD WORLD EPIDEMIC.

WE'D BEEN TRYING TO CONTAIN THE VIRUS FOR MOST OF THE MONTH... THIS WAS THE THIRD ATTEMPT WE'D MADE AT QUARANTINING A COMMUNITY --

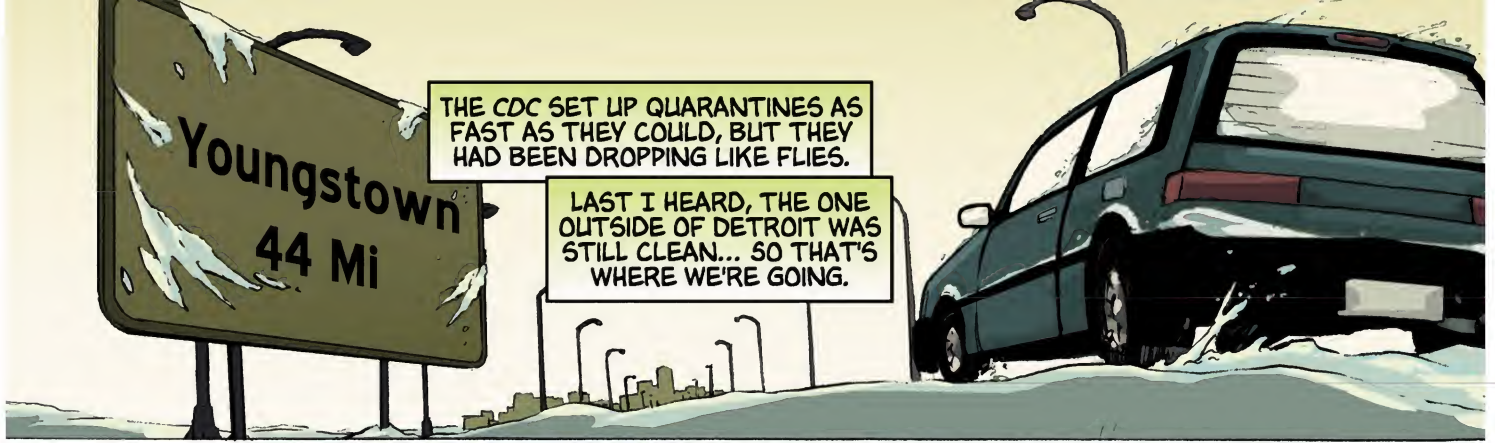


IT WAS ALSO OUR LAST. TOO MANY PEOPLE WERE ALREADY SICK, DYING OR DEAD... IT'S A MIRACLE WE'RE ALIVE.

I HAD BEEN WORKING OUT OF THE CDC'S PITTSBURGH OFFICES TO HELP WITH THE OVERFLOW... THAT'S WHEN THEY DECLARED A NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

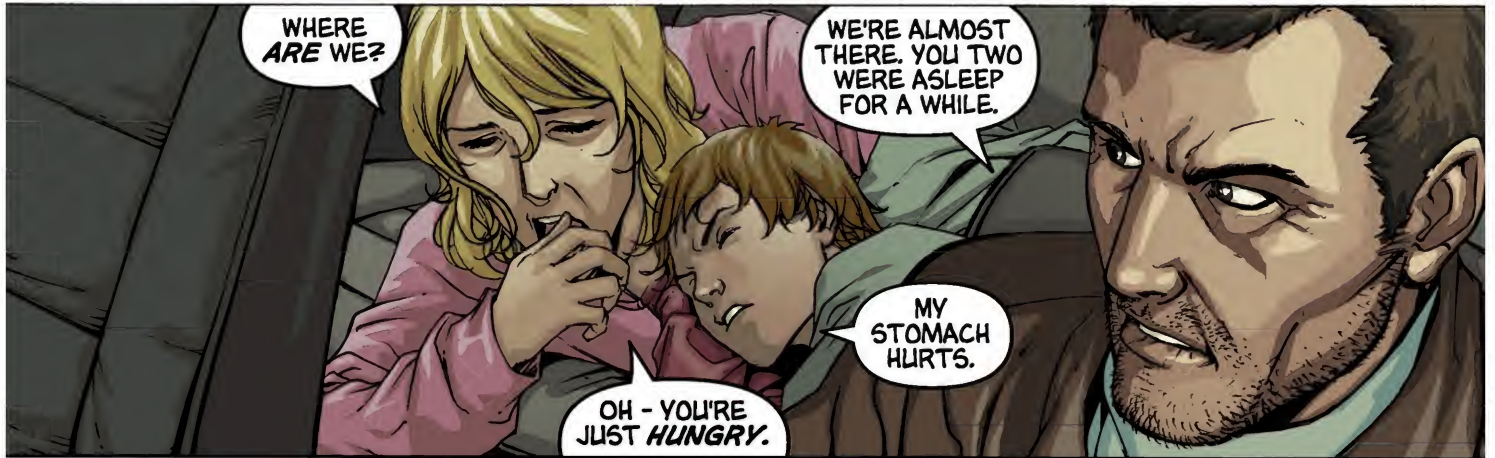
CLIK POP
HSS





THE CDC SET UP QUARANTINES AS FAST AS THEY COULD, BUT THEY HAD BEEN DROPPING LIKE FLIES.

LAST I HEARD, THE ONE OUTSIDE OF DETROIT WAS STILL CLEAN... SO THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING.



WHERE ARE WE?

WE'RE ALMOST THERE. YOU TWO WERE ASLEEP FOR A WHILE.

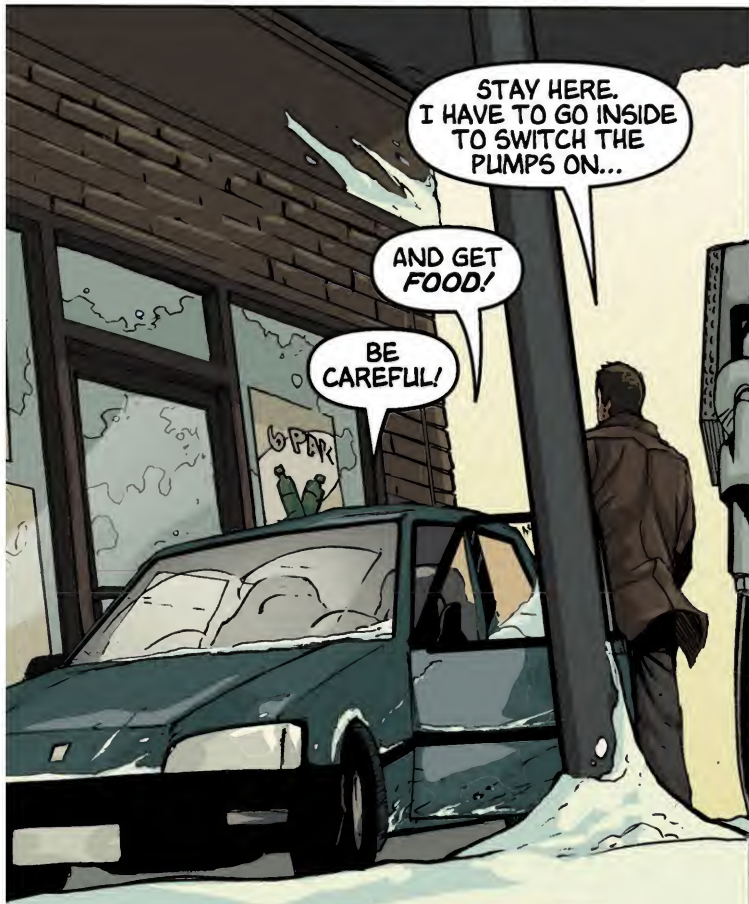
MY STOMACH HURTS.

OH - YOU'RE JUST HUNGRY.



WE SHOULDN'T STOP UNTIL WE GET TO THE QUARANTINE, BUT WE NEED GAS.

OH GOOD, WE CAN GET SOME FOOD WHILE WE'RE AT IT.



STAY HERE. I HAVE TO GO INSIDE TO SWITCH THE PUMPS ON...

AND GET FOOD!

BE CAREFUL!





KLIK

ARE YOU CLEAN?

WHAT THE --

ANSWER THE QUESTION... OR I WILL KILL YOU.

I'M CLEAN... MY NAME IS HOWARD LEMAY, I'M WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

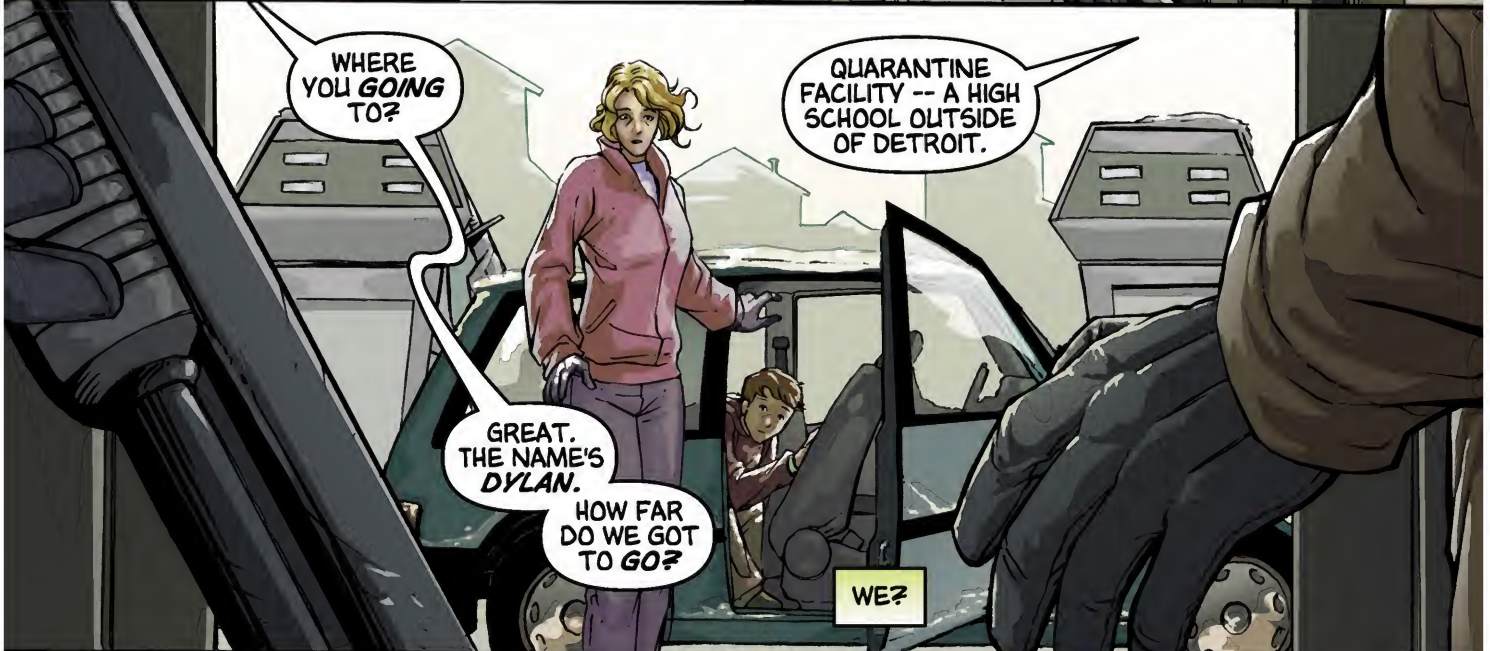


HOMELAND SECURITY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

IT'S AN AIRBORNE VIRUS, IT'S PANDEMIC.

EVERY CITY THAT'S NOT UNDER QUARANTINE IS EITHER EVACUATED OR DESTROYED.

THAT'S WHY I'M STUCK IN HERE... UNLESS --



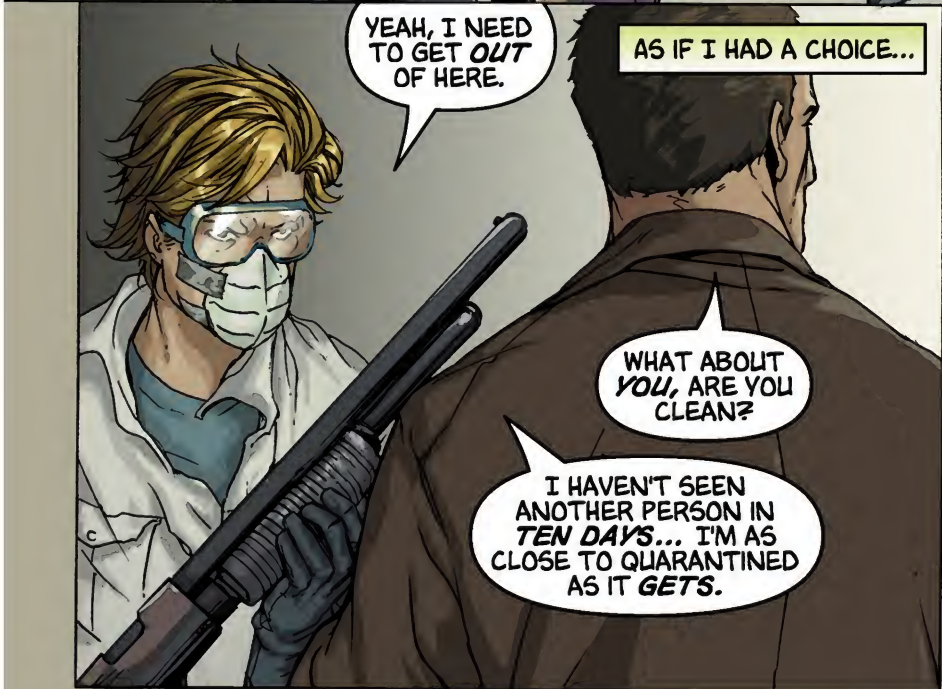
WHERE YOU GOING TO?

QUARANTINE FACILITY -- A HIGH SCHOOL OUTSIDE OF DETROIT.

GREAT. THE NAME'S DYLAN.

HOW FAR DO WE GOT TO GO?

WE?



YEAH, I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

AS IF I HAD A CHOICE...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, ARE YOU CLEAN?

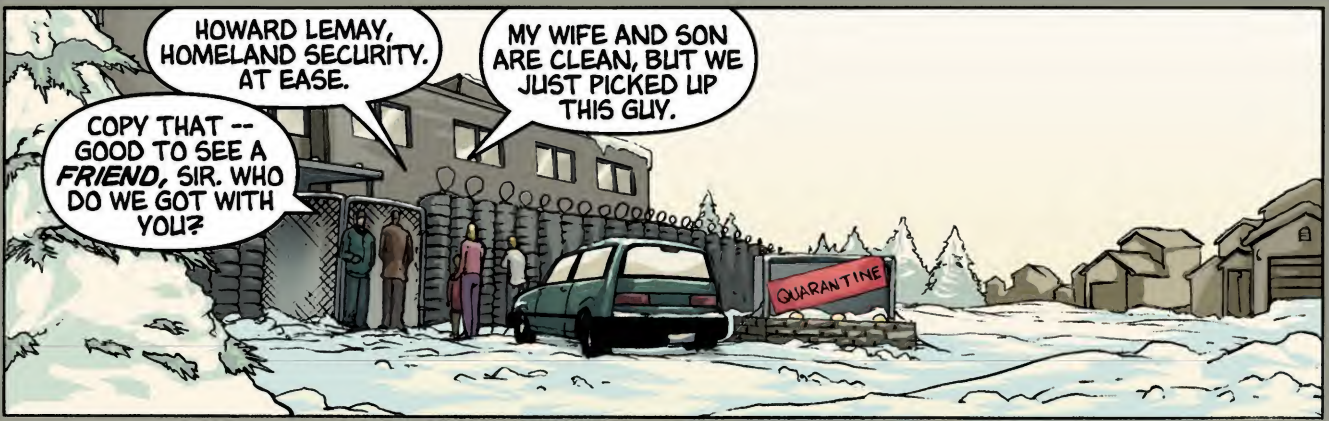
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANOTHER PERSON IN TEN DAYS... I'M AS CLOSE TO QUARANTINED AS IT GETS.



FIRST CASE WAS REPORTED IN TOWN A MONTH AGO... I LEFT BEFORE IT SPREAD. I'M THE ONLY SURVIVOR.

WE'RE STILL GOING TO HAVE TO RUN SOME TESTS.

WHERE WE GOING TO DO THAT?



HOWARD LEMAY,
HOMELAND SECURITY.
AT EASE.

MY WIFE AND SON
ARE CLEAN, BUT WE
JUST PICKED UP
THIS GUY.

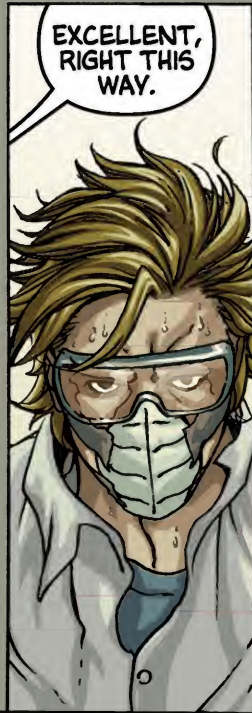
COPY THAT --
GOOD TO SEE A
FRIEND, SIR. WHO
DO WE GOT WITH
YOU?



ANYTHING TO
DECLARE BEFORE
ENTRY?

NO, WE'RE
ALL CLEAN.
I ALREADY
CHECKED
HIM...

SIR,
YES
SIR.



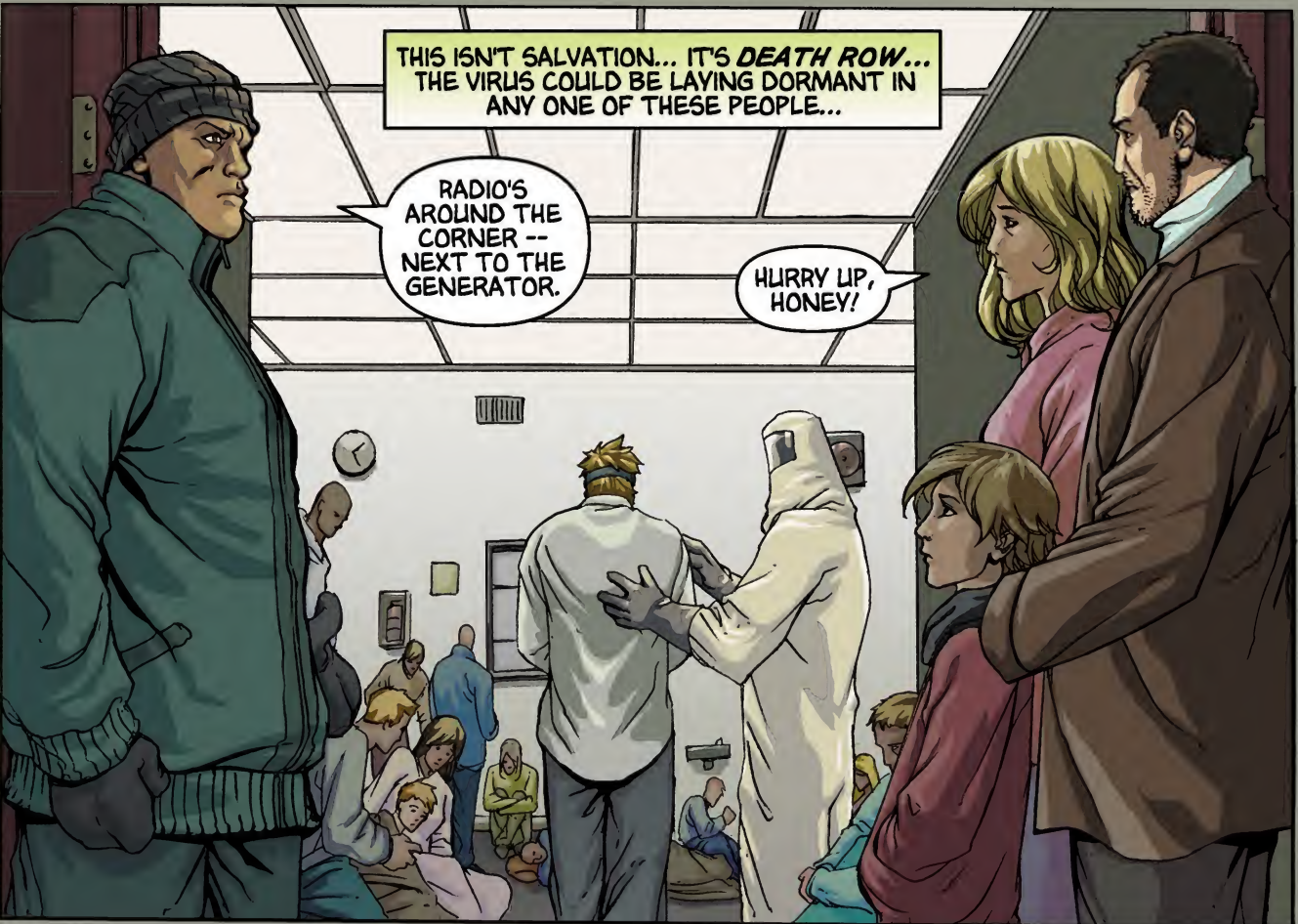
EXCELLENT,
RIGHT THIS
WAY.



THIS IS WHERE WE WERE GOING...
BUT WHY DOESN'T IT *FEEL* RIGHT?

ALRIGHT, WELL INSIDE THE
AUDITORIUM YOU'LL BE
TESTED, ISSUED BEDDING,
FOOD AND CLOTHING.

YOU GUYS
GO *AHEAD* --
I HAVE TO
RADIO
ATLANTA.



THIS ISN'T SALVATION... IT'S *DEATH ROW*...
THE VIRUS COULD BE LAYING DORMANT IN
ANY ONE OF THESE PEOPLE...

RADIO'S
AROUND THE
CORNER --
NEXT TO THE
GENERATOR.

HURRY UP,
HONEY!

IT TOOK ME *TWO HOURS* TO GET ATLANTA ON THE LINE. THEY HAD BEEN SLAMMED WITH CALLS SINCE THE OUTBREAKS STARTED -- IT'S *SPREADING...*

HELP!

WHAT THE--?!

RRRIINNNNNNGGG!

MASKS ON! EVERYONE! REMAIN CALM AND PUT YOUR MASKS ON!

THE QUARANTINE'S BEEN BREACHED!

HOWARD?! HOWARD!!! SAVE US... HELP!

DON'T LEAVE ME... THE VIRUS, IT'S *IN* HERE...

LET ME OUT -- PLEASE!

I... I *CAN'T*... YOU'RE INFECTED.

BUT... I MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE IT!

BUT YOU MIGHT...

AND I DON'T WANT TO DIE...

Ka-CHUNK

BUT -- I'M YOUR WIFE!!!

THE VIRUS IS DESTROYING EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES.

LAYING ITSELF UPON US LIKE A BLANKET OF DEATH.

IF IT TOOK THIS LONG TO SHOW IN DYLAN, *ANYONE* COULD HAVE IT...

EVEN ME...

The End



HEROES

CHAPTER 59 Man on Fire

In the aftermath of the events at Kirby Plaza, D.L. Hawkins renewed his bonds with his wife Niki and their son, Micah. Making a major change in his life, D.L. takes a bold new step in becoming a hero once more...

FIRE STATION #5,
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

CAPTAIN BURKE HAD IT OUT
FOR ME FROM DAY ONE OF
FIREFIGHTER TRAINING.

TRAINEE
CLASS OF 2008

HAWKINS --
YOU'RE SAVING
LIVES WITH
THAT WATER, NOT
FILLING A DAMN
POOL -- MOVE
FASTER!

MAN ON FIRE

TIMM KEPPLER MICHAEL GAYDOS

Story

Art

CHRIS SOTOMAYOR COMICRAFT NANCI QUESADA

Colors

Lettering

Editor

I'M BEATIN'
EVERYBODY!

IN THE CLASSROOM.
DURING DRILLS. MAN,
HE NEVER LET UP.

TWO MONTHS
LATER...

I TRIED TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

I GOT A
FAMILY TOO -- JUST
WANNA DO RIGHT
BY THEM.

ALL DUE
RESPECT SIR,
YOU DON'T
KNOW A THING
ABOUT ME.

I KNOW
THE KIND OF FAMILY
MAN YOU ARE.

I KNOW YOU
AREN'T GONNA BE
A FIREFIGHTER.

TEST DAY...

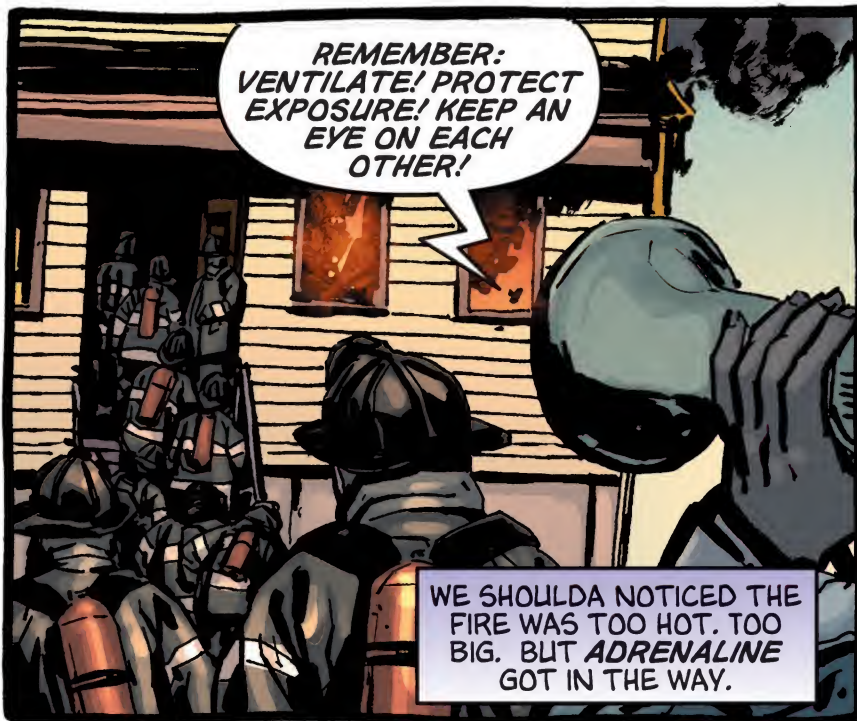
STOP! HAND YOUR PAPERS
TO LIEUTENANT PALMER,
GET SUITED UP -- TIME FOR
THE REAL TEST!

IT WAS A MOCK FIRE.
THE TEST: SAVE
THE DUMMY DOLLS
INSIDE, PUT OUT THE
FIRE, GET OUT SAFE.

WE WORK IN TEAMS.
YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES.
SUCCESS AND YOU PASS
-- ANYTHING LESS AND
YOU FAIL. GOT THAT?
HAWKINS?

I GOT STUCK WITH
BURKE. LUCKY ME.

LIGHT
IT UP!



REMEMBER: VENTILATE! PROTECT EXPOSURE! KEEP AN EYE ON EACH OTHER!

WE SHOULD'VE NOTICED THE FIRE WAS TOO HOT. TOO BIG. BUT ADRENALINE GOT IN THE WAY.



KRAK

SECURE THE BEDROOM -- MEET IN THE KITCHEN!

COPY THAT!



KAPOW

HAWKINS!



IT'S TOO HOT -- I CAN'T PASS!

PALMER -- THE GAS LINE -- IT'S SET TOO HIGH! THE SHUT-OFF VALVE'S IN THE BASEMENT! SOUTHEAST CORNER!

CAN'T GET IN, CAPTAIN -- IT'S COLLAPSED!

GET OUTTA HERE, HAWKINS!



KRKSSH

I'M NOT LEAVIN' YOU!

GOT NO MORE THAN 30 SECONDS 'FORE EVERYTHING FALLS!



HAWKINS! THERE'S NO TIME!

I HAD TO SAVE EVERYONE. AND THE FASTEST WAY TO THE BASEMENT WAS STRAIGHT DOWN.



CAPTAIN --
EVERYBODY'S
TRAPPED?!



HAWKINS?!



HELP!



I CAN'T
GET OUT!



WE'RE
TRAPPED!




UNHHH...






I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER
RUNNIN' THROUGH THE
BASEMENT.



I WAS THINKIN'
ABOUT MICAH.



AND HOW MUCH
HE'D LOVE TO
SEE ME USING
MY POWERS
LIKE THAT.



HMMPH!

SSFFPHHMM
MM



I DON'T KNOW, HE *DISAPPEARED*. I CLIMBED DOWN TO THE FIRST FLOOR BUT I COULDN'T *FIND HIM*.

THERE HE *IS!*



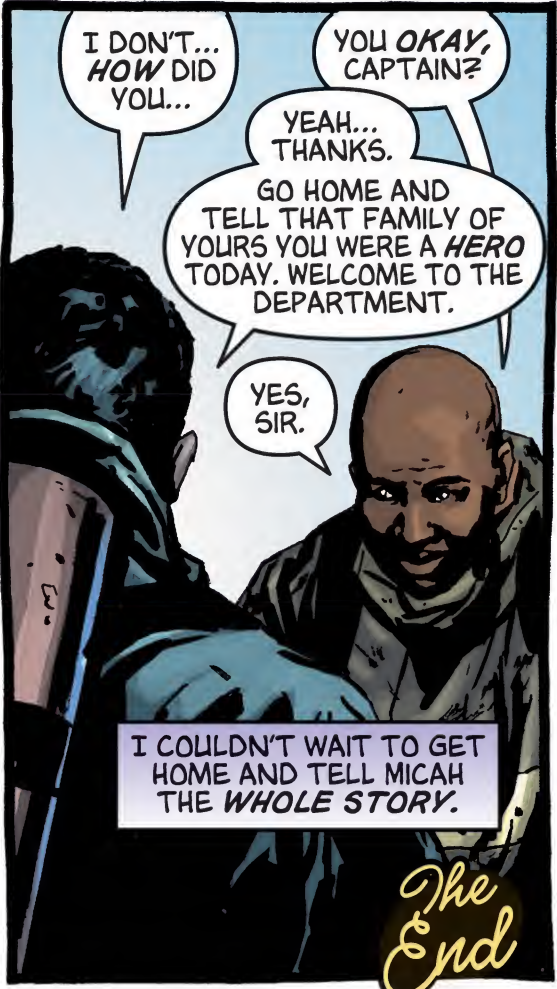
HOW IN THE HELL?



YOU SAVED OUR LIVES.

WE THOUGHT WE *LOST* YOU, HAWKINS.

TAKES MORE THAN *THAT*.



I DON'T... HOW DID YOU...

YOU *OKAY*, CAPTAIN?

YEAH... THANKS.

GO HOME AND TELL THAT FAMILY OF YOURS YOU WERE A *HERO* TODAY. WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT.

YES, SIR.

I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET HOME AND TELL MICAH THE *WHOLE STORY*.

The End



HEROES

CHAPTER 60

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

PART 1 of 2

Through Hiro Nakamura, Takezo Kensei learned his amazing ability: he was the man who could not be killed. Later, he revealed the true extent of his powers, that he did not age. Kensei, was in fact, immortal. In the eighteenth century, he's found a new drive, to find the man who could be just like him...

A DAM MONROE, 1777.

WHEN YOU HAVE LIVED AS LONG AS I, *DEATH* BECOMES A CONSTANT COMPANION.

FEW THINGS *IMPRESS* ME ANYMORE. IMMORTALITY IS FUNNY LIKE THAT.

I AM A *MERCENARY*. AS SUCH, I AM PAID TO *KILL*.

THE *ENGLISH* HAD COMMISSIONED OUR SERVICES TO HELP GUARD *PORT ARLESBURGH*.

NOT THAT I AM PARTICULARLY BEHOLDEN TO THE BRITISH EMPIRE. I FIGHT SIMPLY TO ESCAPE *BOREDOM*.

WE WERE *TOO LATE*, BUT WHAT REMAINED WAS BEAUTIFUL AND TERRIFYING. *FIRST RATE* WORK.



PURSUIT *Part One*

DJ DOYLE *Story* TOM GRUMMETT *Art* EDGAR AT STUDIO F *Colors* COMICRAFT *Lettering* NANCI QUESADA *Editor*



HOW DID THEY DO THIS?



NOT "THEY"... HIM. HE DID IT HIMSELF. HE CANNOT BE *KILLED!*

IMPOSSIBLE. THERE'S ONLY *ONE MAN* CAPABLE OF SUCH DESTRUCTION.

ME.



UNLESS THERE IS *ANOTHER*.

PREPARE TO LAND THE MEN.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES, I WAS *IMPRESSED*.



I TOOK MY TIME TO
ROAM THE HAVOC.

ABSORBING THE CLUES
THAT WOULD LEAD ME
TO MY *NEW TARGET*.

THE MEN DID NOT
UNDERSTAND
THE MISSION.

NO MAN IS LOYAL AT HEART. I HAVE
FOUND THIS COUNTLESS TIMES.

THIS IS BOUND
TO BE ANOTHER
DARK NIGHT.


AYE, WHO WOULD
SEARCH FOR THE
ARMY CAPABLE
OF THIS?

HE
WOULD.

FEAR WOULD
KEEP THEM
IN LINE FAR
BETTER.

IT WAS *HIM*.
I KNEW IT
INSTANTLY.

I HAD BEEN *PURPOSELESS* FOR SO
LONG. WANTING NOTHING OTHER THAN
TO DESTROY THE *MISERABLE*
HUMANITY THAT SURROUNDED ME.



I WAS A GOD. *TIMELESS*.
BUT EVEN A MAN'S DYING
WHISPER OF *HIS* POWER
CHALLENGED MY CLAIM.

SO *ENDING HIM*
BECAME MY *NEW*
PURPOSE.

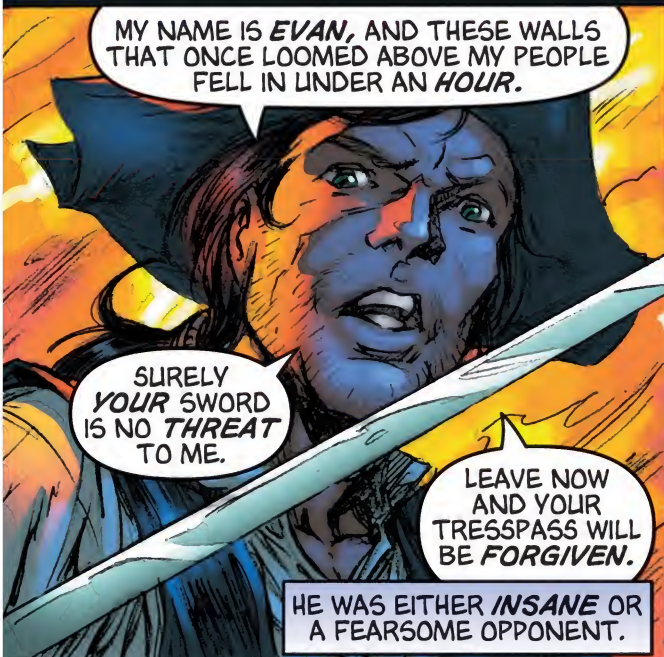


WHAT BUSINESS HAVE YOU HERE?

I HUNT THE SEPARATISTS WHO LAID WASTE TO ARLESBURGH.

THEN I AM YOUR MAN.

YOU ALONE? THE SAME MAN SAID TO BE UNKILLABLE?



MY NAME IS *EVAN*, AND THESE WALLS THAT ONCE LOOMED ABOVE MY PEOPLE FELL IN UNDER AN *HOUR*.

SURELY YOUR SWORD IS NO THREAT TO ME.

LEAVE NOW AND YOUR TRESSPASS WILL BE FORGIVEN.

HE WAS EITHER *INSANE* OR A FEARSOME OPPONENT.



I HAD TO KNOW WHICH.

DO YOU *STILL* CLAIM TO BE THE ONE WHO CANNOT BE *KILLED*?

I DO!



THEN *PROVE* IT!

PITY. TOO YOUNG FOR SUCH BIG *BLUFFS*.

NO!

COMMANDER!



HEAR THOSE **CANNONS?** THEY'RE COMING FOR YOU.

AND SO THEY CAME.



HOWEVER THEY **FOUND US**, THIS ARMY HAD DESCENDED IN **NO TIME**.

BUT MY MEN WERE ALWAYS THIRSTING FOR A **FIGHT**.



THIS WAS A **JUGGERNAUGHT** HEADING STRAIGHT FOR US.



IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY HAD **OVERTAKEN US**.

OUR ONLY HOPE WAS TO FIGHT THEM **UP CLOSE**, WHERE THEIR HEAVY FIRE WAS **USELESS**.



THERE WERE *TOO MANY* OF THEM. FIGHT AS WE *COULD*, WE TOOK HEAVY LOSSES.

FALL BACK YOU FOOLS! RETREAT!

PUSH *ANY* HUMAN TO A CERTAIN LIMIT, AND NOT EVEN FEAR WILL KEEP THEM IN LINE.



ONCE AGAIN, I HAD BEEN *ABANDONED*.

SO I *FOUGHT ON* THE ONLY WAY I KNEW *HOW*.



BY *MYSELF*. KILLING AS MANY AS *POSSIBLE*. QUICKLY. WITHOUT *MERCY*.



TIME *PAUSED* AS THIS MAN FELL FROM MY BLADE FOR THE *SECOND TIME* TONIGHT.

AND SOMETHING TOLD ME I MAY BE GETTING THE *FIGHT* I HAD ASKED FOR.

To Be **CONTINUED...**



HEROES

CHAPTER 61

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

PART 2 of 2

Kensei discovered his foe's incredible power. He was fighting a man who could create duplicates of himself, clones. With Kensei's ability to heal from any wound, their war became a conflict of the ages...



I HAD KILLED THIS MAN ONCE BEFORE...

LAZARUS RISEN!

AND NOW HE FALLS AGAIN BY MY BLADE.



THIS WAS NOT A MAN WHO RETURNED FROM DEATH AS I DID...



THIS WAS A MAN WHO HAD DIED A THOUSAND TIMES. WHILE HIS BROTHERS LIVED.

PUTS THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE.

SUDDENLY THE WAR SEEMS LESS IMPORTANT--

WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

AND ALL THAT'S LEFT IS YOU --

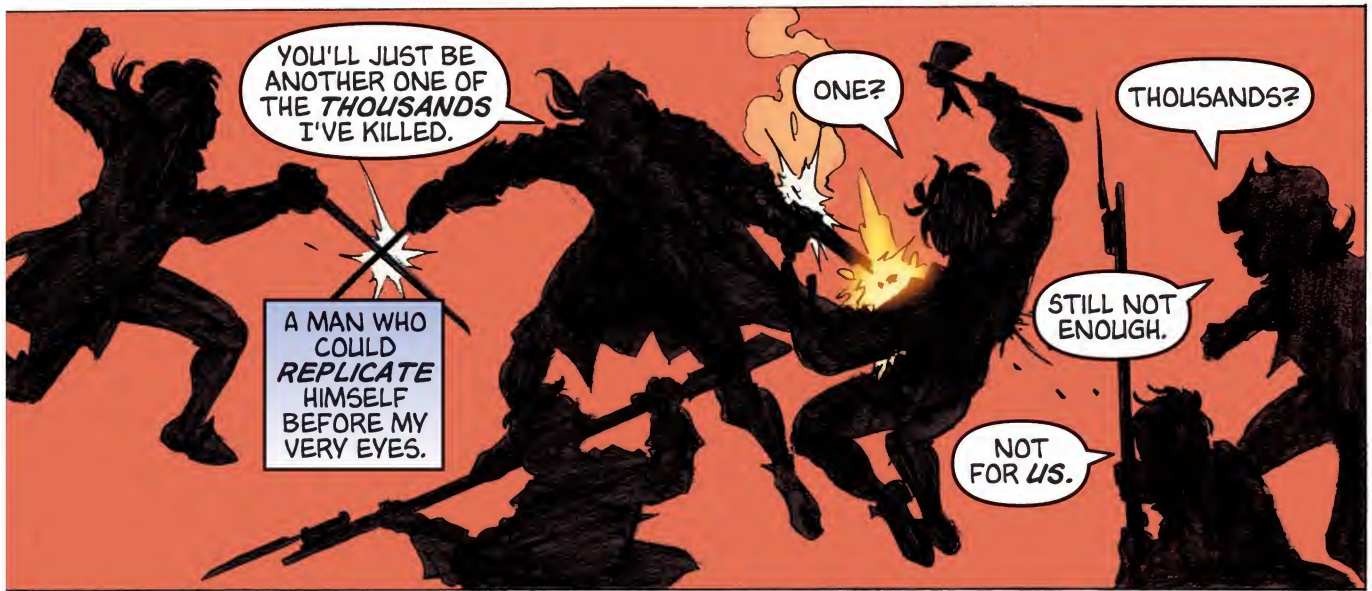
AND ME.

AND ME.

AND ME.

PURSUIT *Part Two*

OLIVER GRIGSBY *Story* TOM GRUMMETT *Art*
EDGAR AT STUDIO F COMICRAFT NANCI QUESADA
Colors *Lettering* *Editor*



YOU'LL JUST BE ANOTHER ONE OF THE **THOUSANDS** I'VE KILLED.

ONE?

THOUSANDS?

A MAN WHO COULD **REPLICATE** HIMSELF BEFORE MY VERY EYES.

STILL NOT ENOUGH.

NOT FOR US.



ONE MAN, AN ENDLESS SOURCE, WHO BECAME MY TARGET. STOP **HIM** AND I COULD STOP THEM ALL.

YOU LEAD ENTIRE ARMIES TO THEIR **SLAUGHTER**.

INSPIRE **NOTHING** IN YOUR TROOPS.

YOU ARE **ABANDONED** AGAIN AND AGAIN...

AND YET STILL I **STAND**.

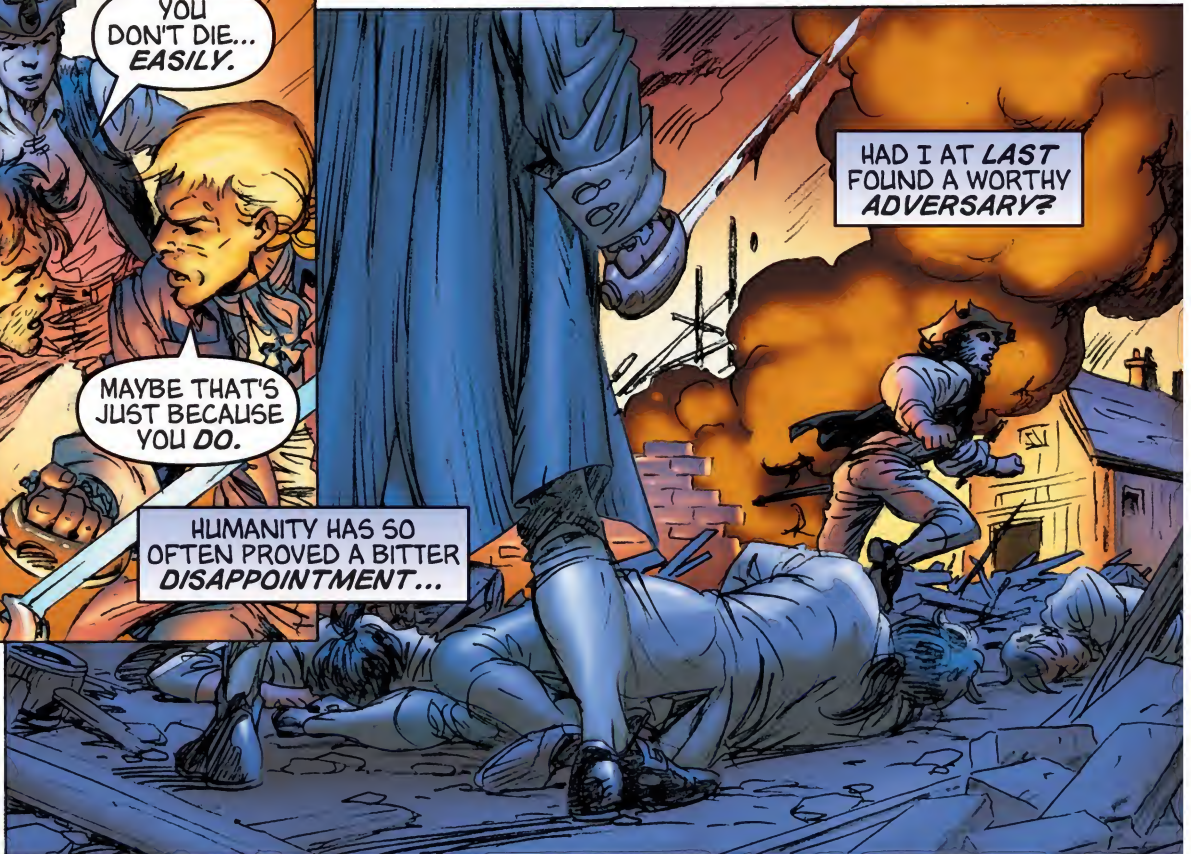


I GET THE FEELING...

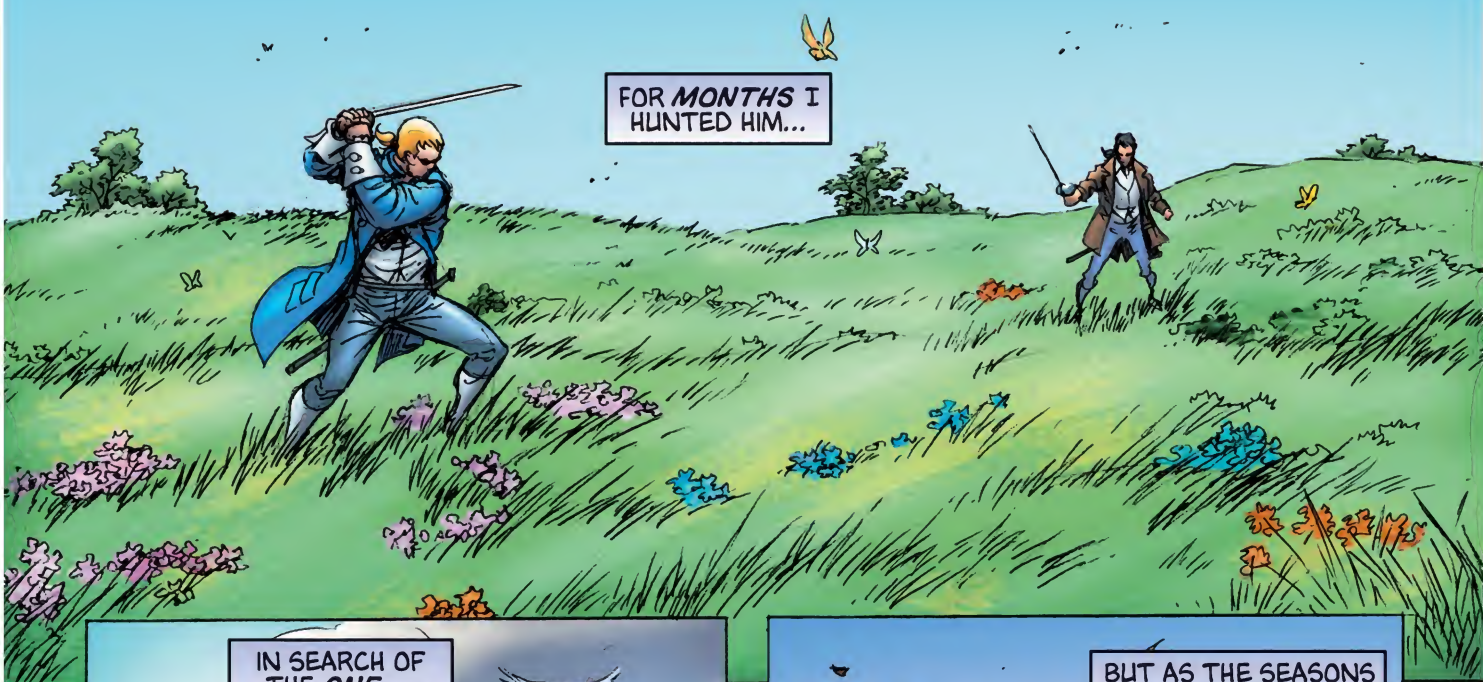
YOU DON'T DIE... **EASILY**.

MAYBE THAT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU **DO**.

HUMANITY HAS SO OFTEN PROVED A BITTER **DISAPPOINTMENT**...



HAD I AT LAST FOUND A WORTHY **ADVERSARY**?



FOR MONTHS I HUNTED HIM...



IN SEARCH OF THE ONE -- THEIR SOURCE.



BUT AS THE SEASONS CHANGED, I BEGAN TO WONDER...



WAS IT HE WHO HUNTED ME?



HOW CAN YOU EXPECT VICTORY WITHOUT *HELP*?



ONLY GODS HAVE LIVED AS I DO!



MAN WAS HERE BEFORE YOU.

AND HE WILL BE HERE AFTER.



I HAD MADE A FOOLISH ASSUMPTION.

HAS OUR LESSON SUNK IN NOW?

DO YOU SEE THE FUTILITY OF YOUR PURSUIT?

OF FIGHTING ALONE?

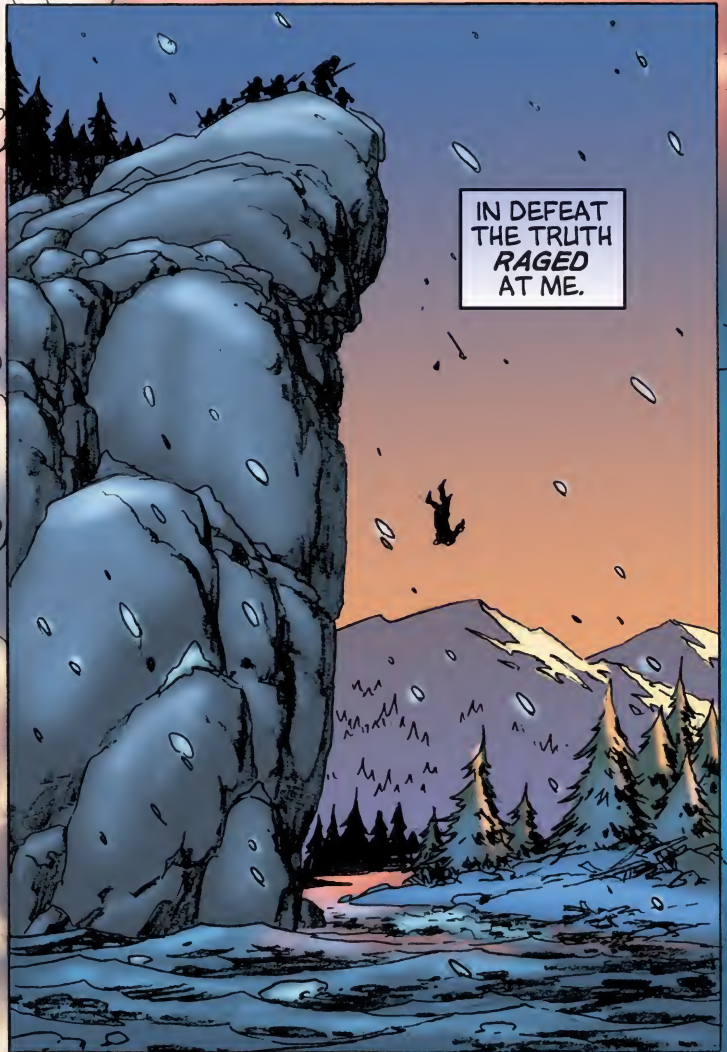


WE ARE THE PEOPLE.

OUR STRENGTH UNITED.

AND YOU...

...ARE ALONE.



IN DEFEAT THE TRUTH RAGED AT ME.



I WAS ALONE...



WHILE GODS SHOULD HAVE DISCIPLES.

The End



DAVID KENSEI

HEROES

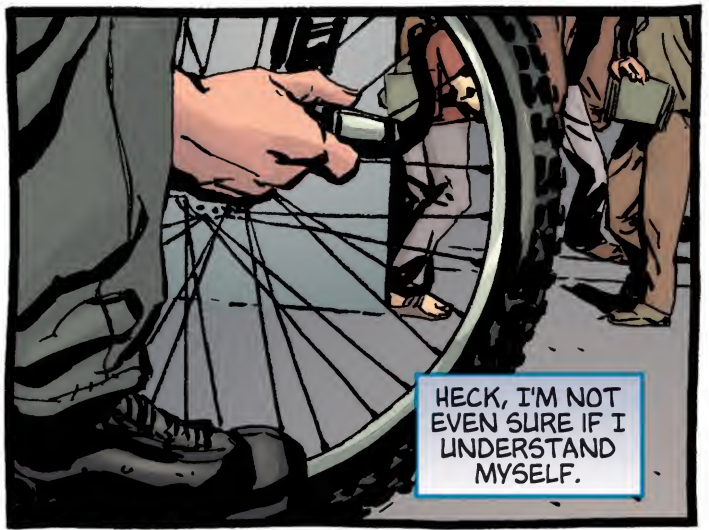
CHAPTER 62

SPECIAL

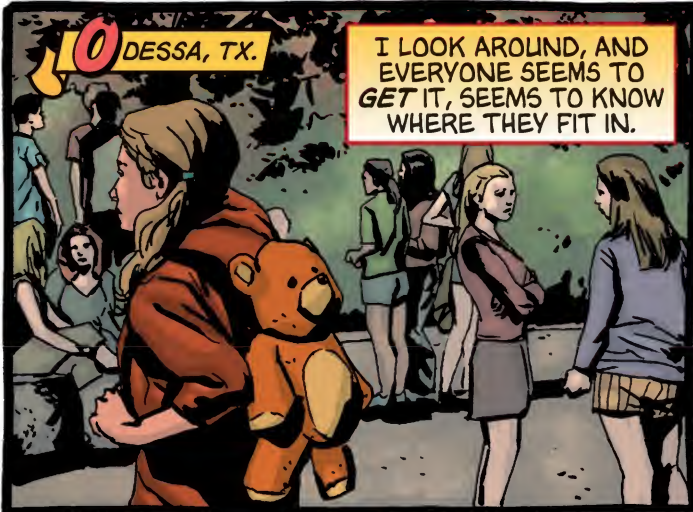
West has just learned his girlfriend's biggest secret: her father is the man who abducted him as a child. But what happened that fateful day?



NOBODY UNDERSTANDS ME.



HECK, I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I UNDERSTAND MYSELF.



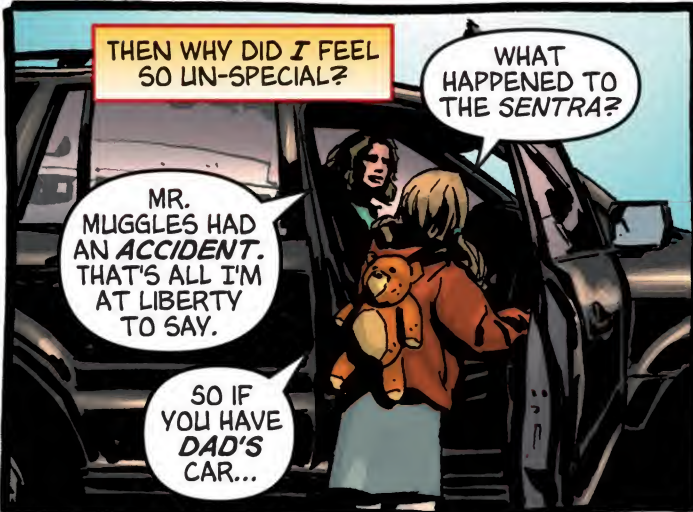
ODESSA, TX.

I LOOK AROUND, AND EVERYONE SEEMS TO GET IT, SEEMS TO KNOW WHERE THEY FIT IN.



ST. LOUIS, MO.

LIKE THEY WERE BORN WITH A ROADMAP TO WHO THEY WANT TO BE.

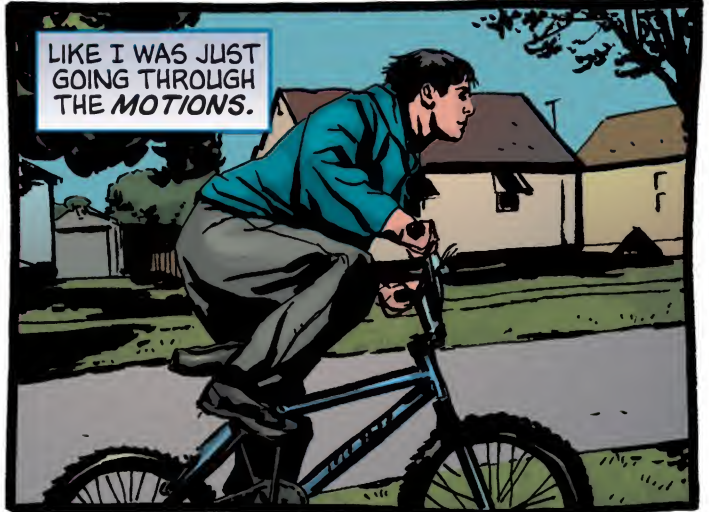


THEN WHY DID I FEEL SO UN-SPECIAL?

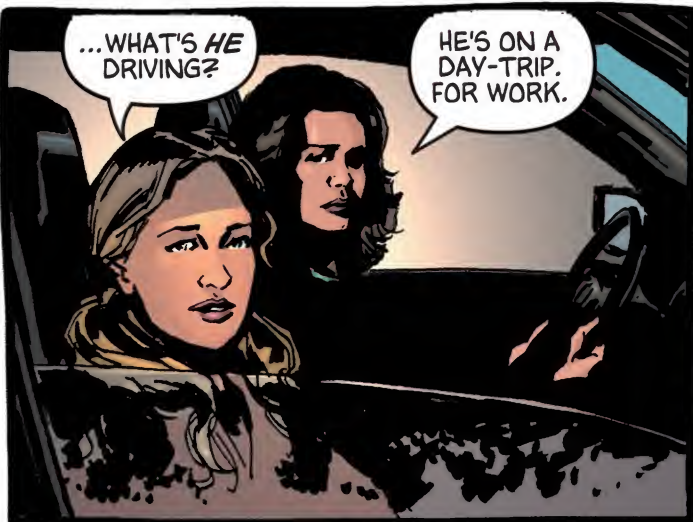
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SENTRA?

MR. MUGGLES HAD AN ACCIDENT. THAT'S ALL I'M AT LIBERTY TO SAY.

SO IF YOU HAVE DAD'S CAR...



LIKE I WAS JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS.



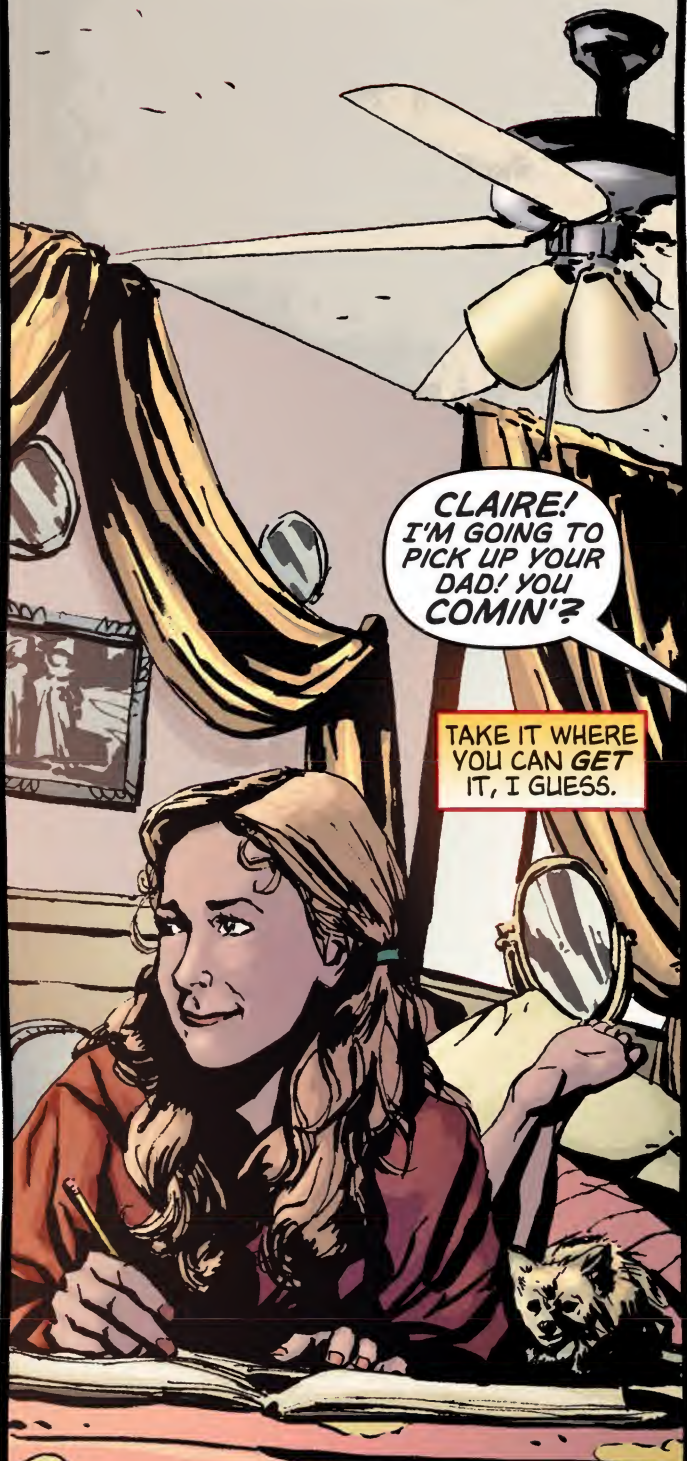
...WHAT'S HE DRIVING?

HE'S ON A DAY-TRIP. FOR WORK.



EVERYTHING
AROUND HERE WAS
PREDICTABLE.

I JUST WISH I COULD
GO SOMEWHERE.
ANYWHERE. WHERE
SOMETHING **EXCITING**
WOULD HAPPEN.



CLAIRE!
I'M GOING TO
PICK UP YOUR
DAD! YOU
COMIN'?

TAKE IT WHERE
YOU CAN GET
IT, I GUESS.

I HAD **NO IDEA**
WHAT WAS
HAPPENING.



HAS HE
MANIFESTED
YET?

I DON'T
BELIEVE
SO.

GET THE
READINGS YOU NEED.
Q.C. HIS **TRACKING**
TAG. THEN GET HIM
CLEARED FOR
CHECK OUT.

YES,
SIR.

AND BE
CAREFUL.
GENTLE. HE'S
JUST A KID.

OF
COURSE.

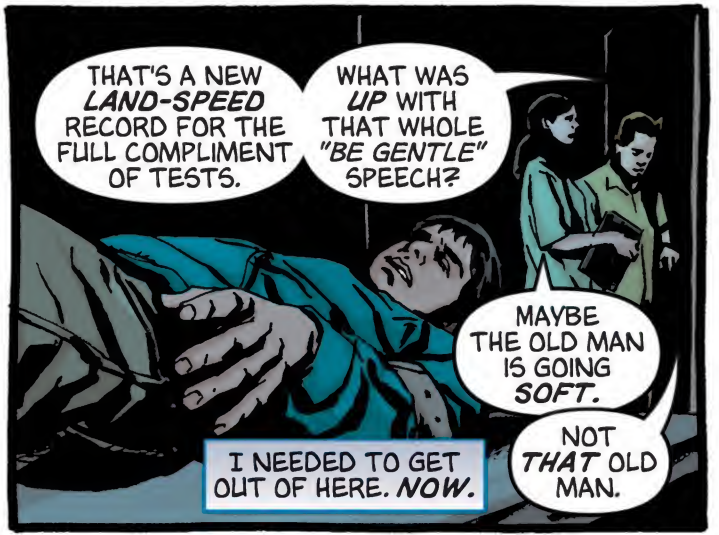
ALL I KNEW IS
THAT I WANTED
TO BE **HOME.**

SPECIAL

JOE POKASKI *Story* MICHAEL GAYDOS *Art* CHRIS SOTOMAYOR *Colors* COMICRAFT *Lettering* NANCI QUESADA *Editor*



CAN I GO IN AND GET HIM?



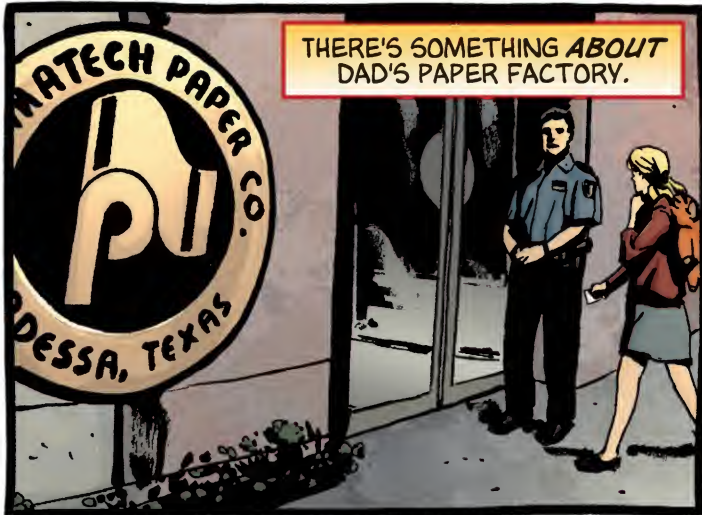
THAT'S A NEW LAND-SPEED RECORD FOR THE FULL COMPLIMENT OF TESTS.

WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT WHOLE "BE GENTLE" SPEECH?

MAYBE THE OLD MAN IS GOING SOFT.

I NEEDED TO GET OUT OF HERE. NOW.

NOT THAT OLD MAN.



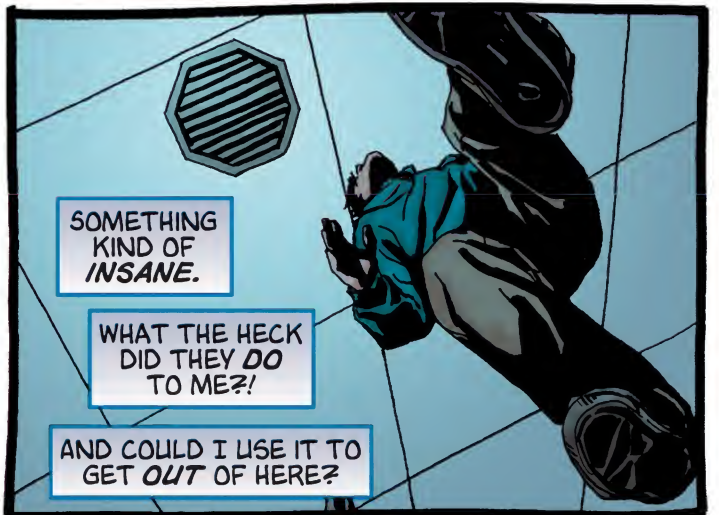
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT DAD'S PAPER FACTORY.



SOMETHING'S HAPPENING...



I LIKED TO PRETEND THERE WERE MYSTERIES BEHIND HERE.



SOMETHING KIND OF INSANE.

WHAT THE HECK DID THEY DO TO ME?!

AND COULD I USE IT TO GET OUT OF HERE?



WHAT KIND OF MYSTERIES WOULD I FIND TODAY?



UP THERE. AN EXIT.

AT LEAST, I HOPE.

HOW AM I DOING THIS?



HEY!
ARE YOU
ONE OF
THEM?

ONE OF
WHO?

LISTEN.
YOU GOTTA
HELP ME!



HELP YOU
HOW? WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
IN THERE?

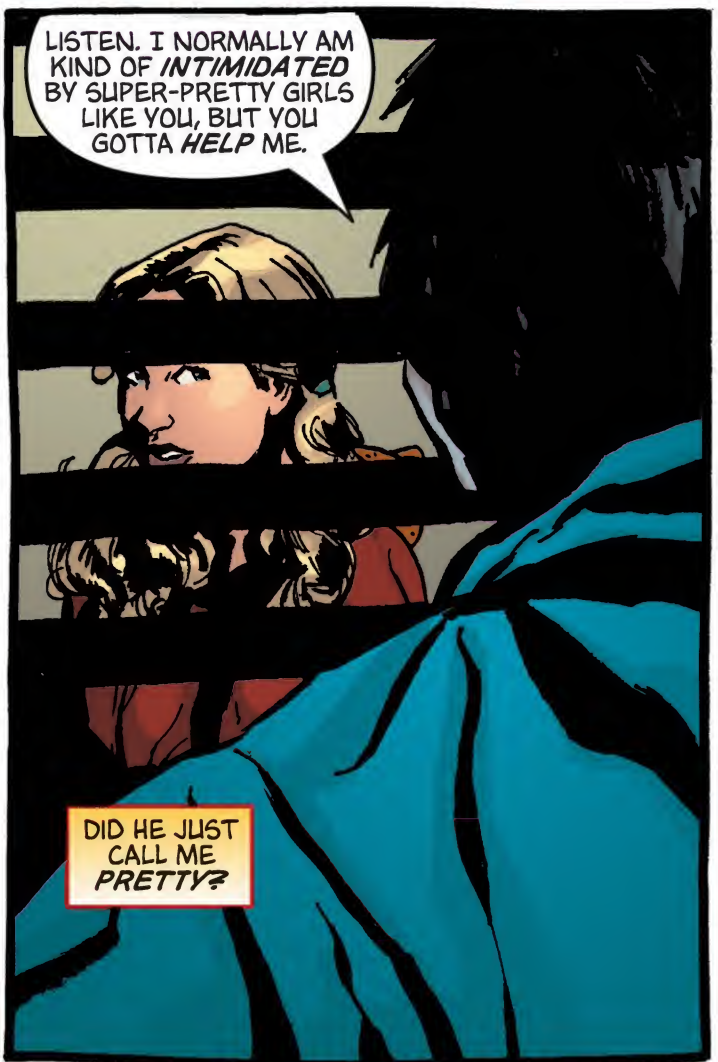
I
DON'T KNOW.
WHAT'S YOUR
NAME?

CLAIRE.



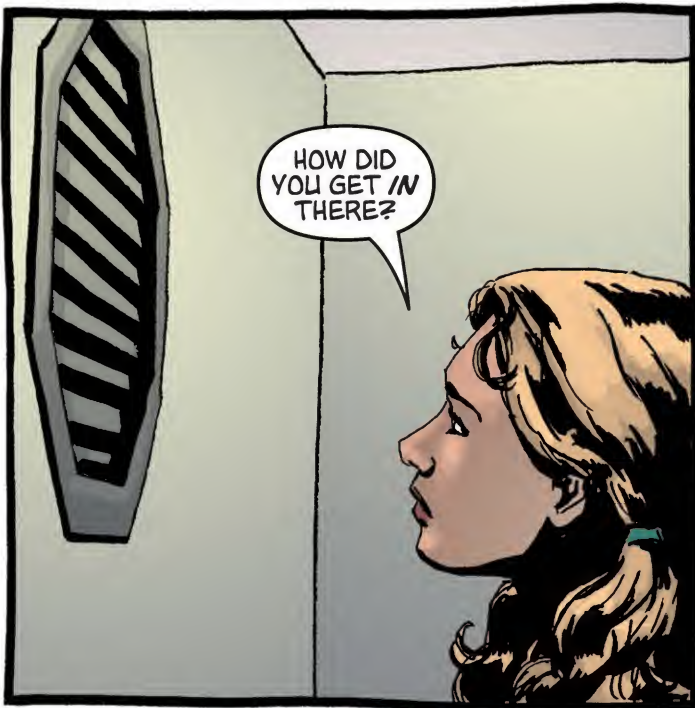
WHAT THE
HECK IS GOING
ON?

CLAIRE. I'VE
NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING
LIKE HER
BEFORE IN
MY LIFE...



LISTEN. I NORMALLY AM
KIND OF INTIMIDATED
BY SUPER-PRETTY GIRLS
LIKE YOU, BUT YOU
GOTTA HELP ME.

DID HE JUST
CALL ME
PRETTY?



HOW DID YOU GET IN THERE?



HERE'S THE THING, I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT...

LOOK OUT! BEHIND YOU!



CLAIRE!

THANK GOD, IT'S DAD. HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

DAD, THERE'S A BOY, IN THE VENTS. HE'S IN TROUBLE.

WHAT?!



I'M TELLING THE TRUTH. I SWEAR.

I BELIEVE YOU. LET ME CHECK.



HELLO?!

SWEETIE, THERE'S NO ONE THERE.

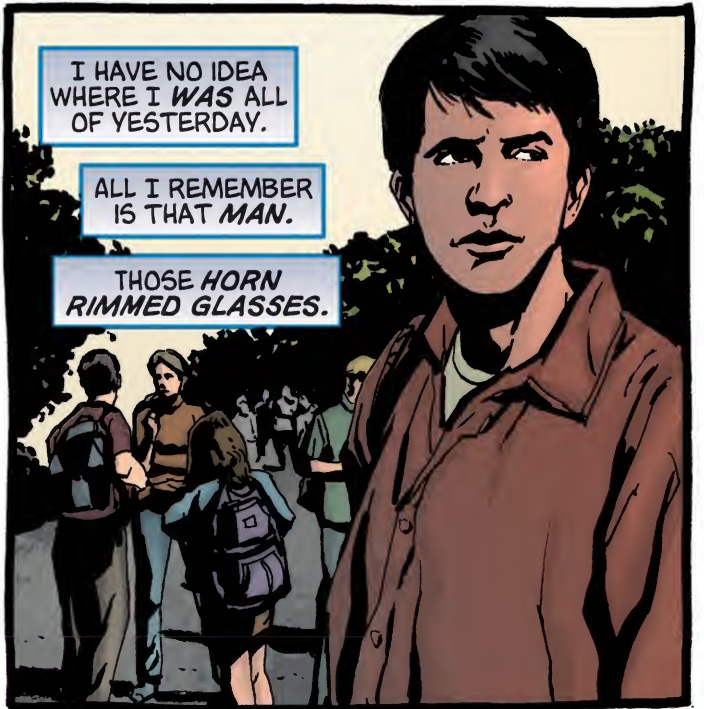
DID I JUST IMAGINE ALL OF THAT?



WHY DOES IT SUDDENLY ALL FEEL LIKE A DREAM?!



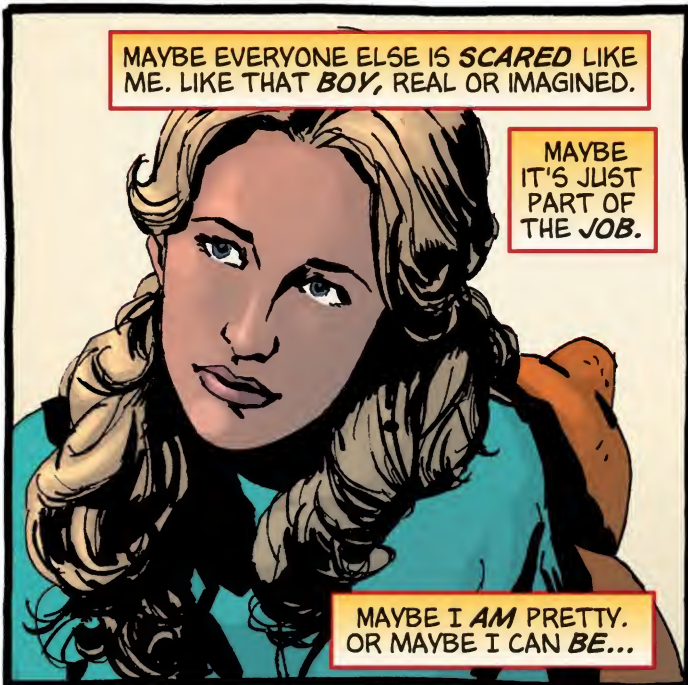
SO MUCH FOR *ADVENTURE*. MAYBE AN ORDINARY DAY ISN'T THAT BAD.



I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I *WAS* ALL OF YESTERDAY.

ALL I REMEMBER IS THAT *MAN*.

THOSE *HORN RIMMED GLASSES*.



MAYBE EVERYONE ELSE IS *SCARED* LIKE ME. LIKE THAT *BOY*, REAL OR IMAGINED.

MAYBE IT'S JUST PART OF THE *JOB*.

MAYBE I *AM* PRETTY. OR MAYBE I CAN *BE*...



WHATEVER HAPPENED, JUNIOR HIGH DOESN'T FEEL THAT *SCARY* TO ME ANYMORE.



MAYBE THAT LITTLE BIT OF *ADVENTURE* CAN *INSPIRE* ME A BIT.

MAKE ME MORE *ADVENTUROUS*.

MAYBE I'LL TRY OUT FOR *CHEERLEADING*.

WHO KNOWS...



MAYBE I *AM* SPECIAL.

The End



HEROES

CHAPTER 63 ELLE'S FIRST ASSIGNMENT

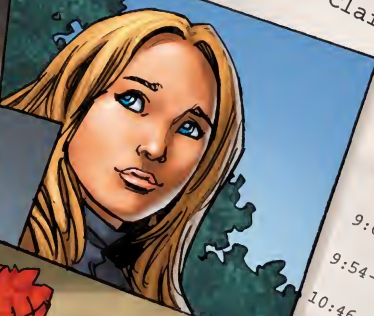
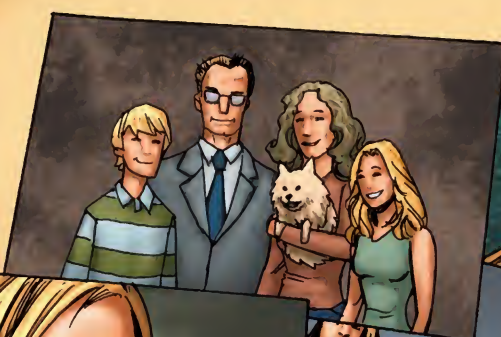
Part 1 of 2

In a tale of times past, Elle receives her very first assignment: monitor Claire Bennet. Posing as a student at Union Wells High School, the task proves far more difficult than she ever imagined.

EIGHT MONTHS AGO.

CONGRATULATIONS.
YOUR FIRST
ASSIGNMENT.

Claire Bennet



Union Wells High School
Class Schedule
Claire Bennet

Time	Teacher
8:10-8:59	O'Neil
9:02-9:51	Bartel
9:54-10:43	Khani
10:46-11:35	Columba
11:38-12:39	Brown
	Cook
	Vaughn

ELLE'S FIRST ASSIGNMENT

Part One

CHUCK KIM *Story* RYAN ODAGAWA *Art*
JOHN STARR *COMICRAFT* An ASPEN M.L.T.
Colors *Lettering* *Production*



NOAH'S KID?
YOU HAVE GOT TO
BE KIDDING ME.



CLAIRE BENNETT IS NOT SOMEONE TO LAUGH AT. SHE COMES FROM EXCELLENT STOCK.

IT'S IMPORTANT WE MAINTAIN TABS ON HER.

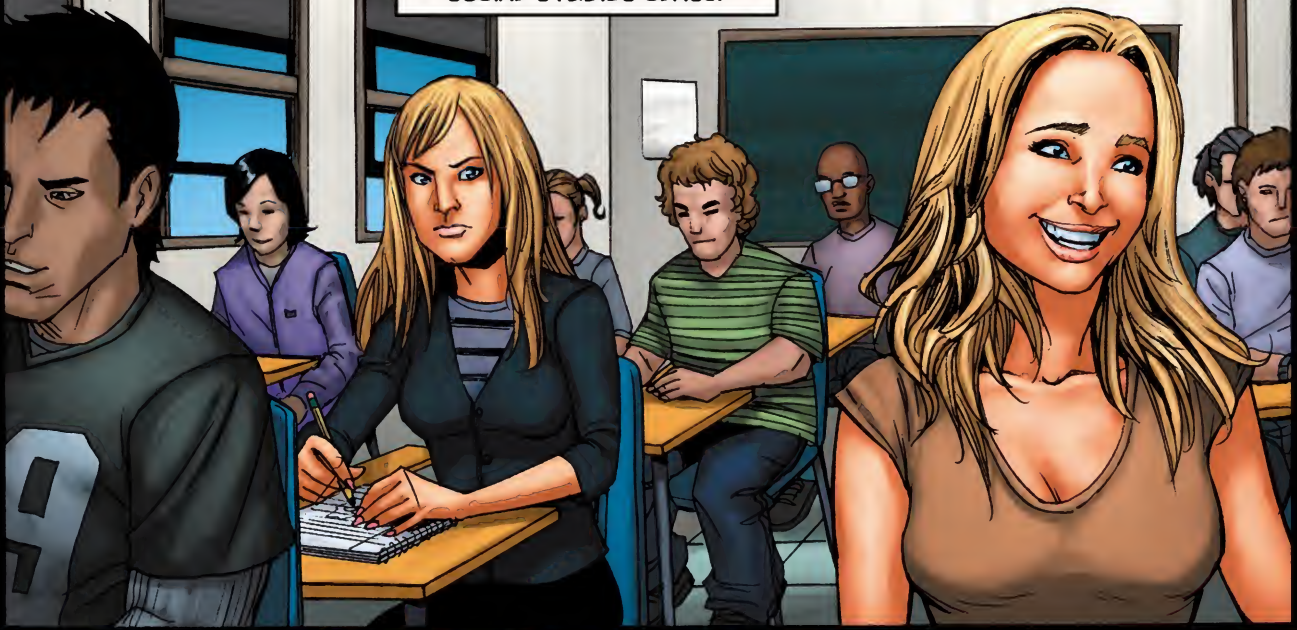
WITH HER BLOOD, SHE MIGHT BECOME A MAJOR PLAYER. THE NEXT LINDERMAN. THE NEXT ARTHUR PETRELLI.



SO CAREFUL, ELLE. YOU COULD BE TAKING ORDERS FROM HER IN A FEW YEARS.

DAY 17 OF CLAIRE WATCH.

I SHOULD BE OUT THERE HUNTING DOWN THE SYLARS OF THE WORLD. NOT WASTING MY TIME IN SOME IDIOTIC SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS.



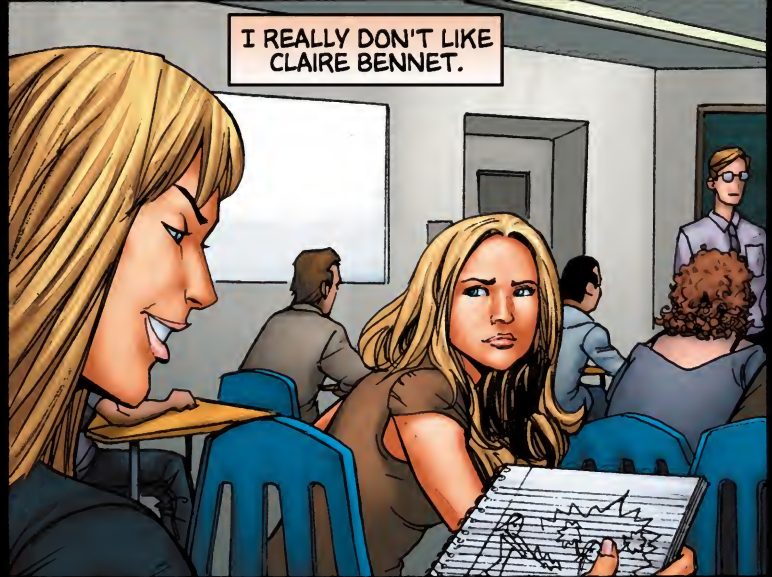
OR BABYSITTING CHEERLEADER PRINCESS.

I MEAN, SERIOUSLY. SHE ACTUALLY IS A CHEERLEADER.

SERIOUSLY.



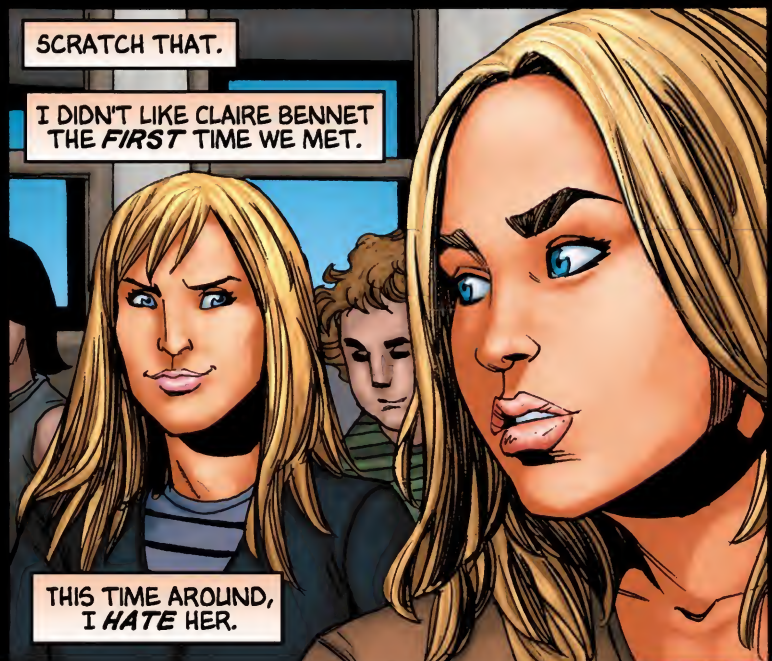
I REALLY DON'T LIKE CLAIRE BENNET.



SCRATCH THAT.

I DIDN'T LIKE CLAIRE BENNET THE FIRST TIME WE MET.

THIS TIME AROUND, I HATE HER.



THE BENNET HOUSE.

LOOK AT THEM.
NOAH PLAYING
NORMAN ROCKWELL.

IF THEY ONLY
KNEW...

GRRRR

HUH?

OH
CRAP.

BARK!

**BARK!
BARK!**

SSSHHH!
SHHH!

**BARK!
BARK!
BARK!
BARK!**

FINE,
I TRIED
TO WARN
YOU...

**BARK!
BARK!**

CLICK

**BARK!
BARK!**

**BARK!
BARK!**

CLICK

CLICK

CLICK



AAARRGGHH!

SSHHHH

SSHHHH

SSHHHH



I READ YOUR FILE, SWEETIE. WATER SHORTS OUT YOUR POWER. FEEDBACK EVEN.

COUGH COUGH

SO I'LL KEEP THIS EVEN STEVEN.

YOU DON'T USE YOUR POWER, I WON'T USE MINE.

KRAK

URK!



WHAM

THAT'S ENOUGH, EDEN.



I THOUGHT I MADE MYSELF PERFECTLY CLEAR LAST TIME, ELLE. I DON'T WANT YOU HANGING AROUND MY DAUGHTER ANYMORE.



SORRY, MR. BENNET. I'M JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS -- KEEP AN EYE ON CLAIRE.



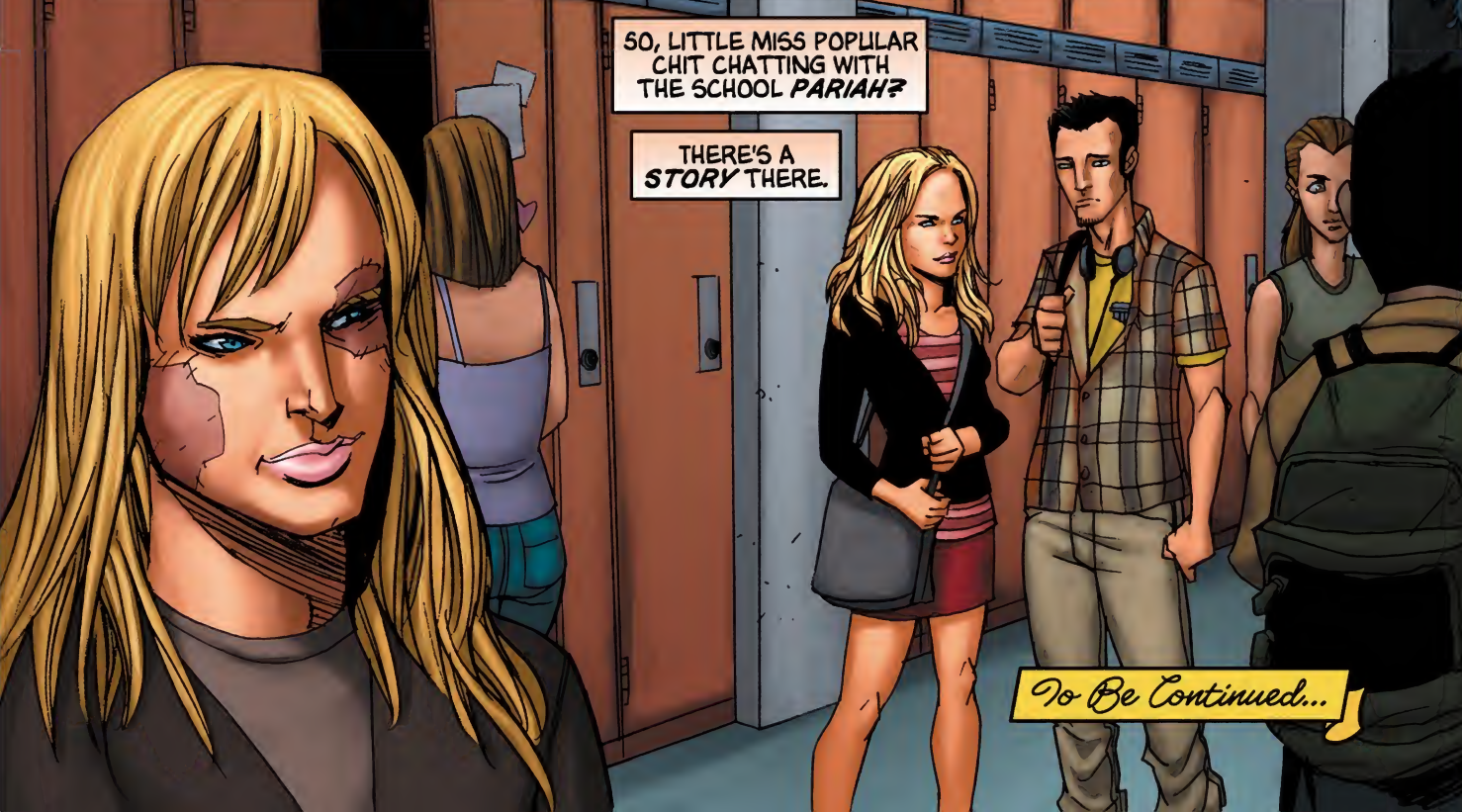
THAT'S MY JOB. YEAH. YOU JUST KEEP BELIEVING THAT. BUT DON'T WORRY --



ONCE CLAIRE MANIFESTS HER BIG BAD POWER, I'LL BE HER TRAINER.

I JUST MADE UP THAT LAST BIT. WISH I COULD SEE HIS FACE. BUT IF I LOOKED, IT'D RUIN THE COOL OF IT.

AND I'LL BE JUST AS NICE AS EDEN WAS TO ME.



SO, LITTLE MISS POPULAR CHIT CHATTING WITH THE SCHOOL PARIANH?

THERE'S A STORY THERE.

To Be Continued...



HEROES

CHAPTER 64 ELLE'S FIRST ASSIGNMENT

Part 2 of 2

Elle received her first assignment from the company: find out what Claire Bennet's power is, if she even has one. Opposed by the Man in Horned-rimmed glasses, Elle decides to give Claire a push in the right direction...

0 DESSA, TEXAS.
EIGHT MONTHS AGO.

FINALLY FOUND YOU AGAIN. SNEAKING AROUND.
IS LITTLE MISS AMERICA GIVING IT UP TO *HIM*?

NOPE. DON'T THINK EITHER OF
THEM WANT THAT TO HAPPEN.

JUST SHOW ME
YOU HAVE A POWER.
ANY POWER.

C'MON CLAIRE.

SHOW ME SO THE
COMPANY WILL LET
ME *OFF* THIS STUPID
ASSIGNMENT.



I'M ON YOUR BUTT,
LITTLE MISS --
OH *CRAP*.

YEAH, *YEAH*,
POPPA BEAR.

I GET
IT.



BUT THERE'S MORE
THAN *ONE* WAY TO
SKIN A CHEERLEADER.



OMIGOD!
CLAIRE!



BESIDES THE
FACT THAT IT WAS
SO GROSS I ALMOST
FUDGED MYSELF,
THIS IS THE SINGLE
COOLEST THING TO
HAPPEN IN THIS TOWN
IN LIKE A *HUNDRED*
YEARS.

NOT IF
NOBODY FINDS
OUT.

DAMN. MISSED
THEM AGAIN.

ELLE'S FIRST ASSIGNMENT *Part Two*

CHUCK KIM RYAN ODAGAWA
Story Art
JOHN STARR COMICRAFT
Colors Lettering
An ASPEN M.L.T. Production





1200
**KNOCK
KNOCK**



HI,
ZACK.

UH, HI.
DO I *KNOW*
YOU?

CINDY?
I'M IN YOUR
FOURTH PERIOD
ENGLISH CLASS?
YOU SAID I
COULD SEE YOUR
NOTES?

I
DID?



SO, YOUR
PARENTS
AREN'T *HOME*,
RIGHT?

HUH?



OK, LOOK, I'M GUESSING
THE SEDUCTION ACT IS
NOT GOING TO FLY
WITH YOU.

SO JUST HAND
OVER THE *TAPE*.
OF *CLAIRE*.

TAPE?
I-- I DON'T
KNOW *WHAT*
YOU'RE...



FINE. WE'LL DO IT
THE *FUN* WAY.
FUN FOR *ME*,
ANYWAY.





MR. BENNET?

HELLO, ZACK. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



YES. BUT MR. BENNET, I THINK SHE WAS GOING TO KILL ME.

YOU SAVED ME!

YOU'RE LUCKY. THAT IS A VERY DANGEROUS GIRL.

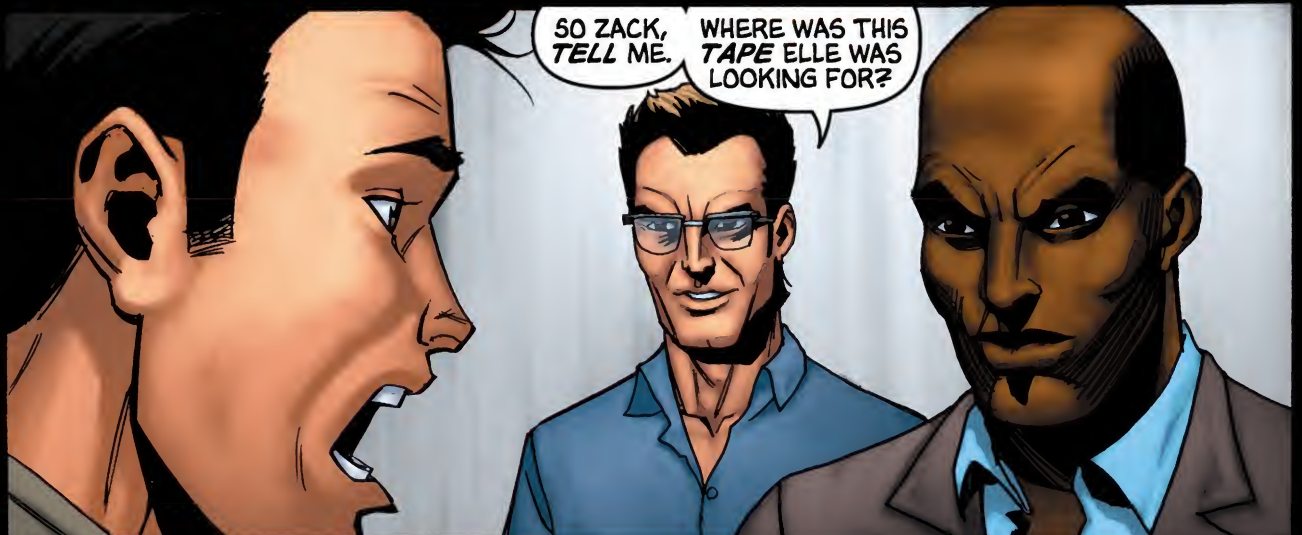


UH, WHAT IS YOUR FRIEND DOING TO HER?

JUST MAKING SURE SHE DOESN'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN.

NOT TO WORRY. SHE'LL BE FINE.

OH.



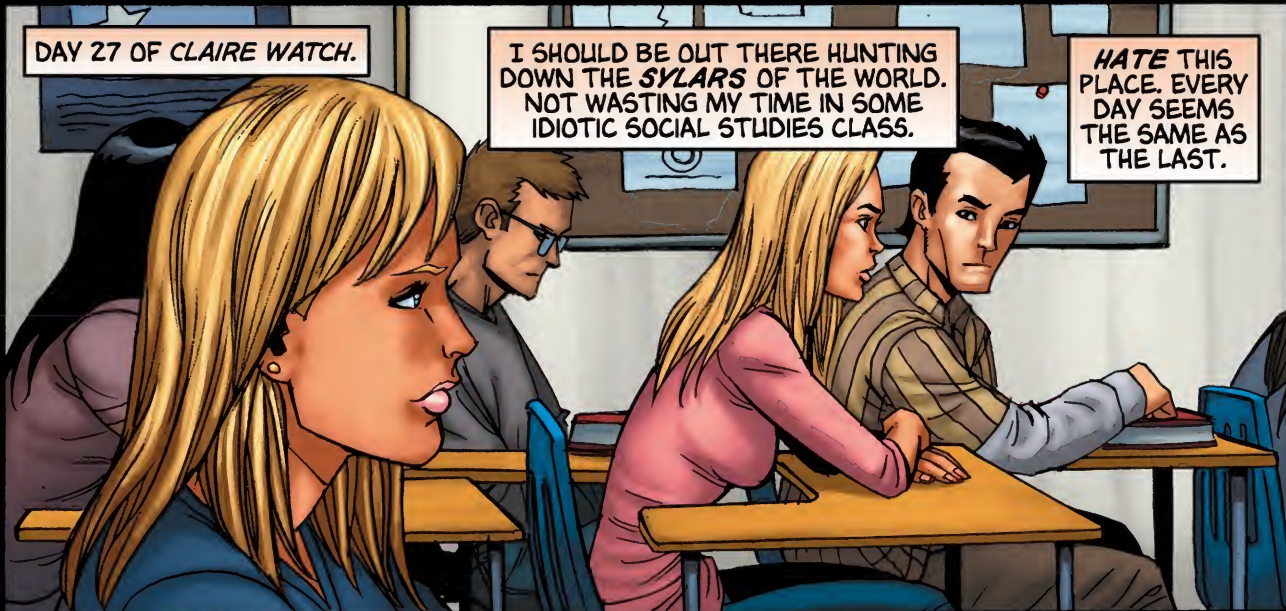
SO ZACK, TELL ME.

WHERE WAS THIS TAPE ELLE WAS LOOKING FOR?

DAY 27 OF CLAIRE WATCH.

I SHOULD BE OUT THERE HUNTING DOWN THE SYLARS OF THE WORLD. NOT WASTING MY TIME IN SOME IDIOTIC SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS.

HATE THIS PLACE. EVERY DAY SEEMS THE SAME AS THE LAST.



HEY. WHO IS THAT GIRL?

HUH? WHO?

THE BLONDE ONE. WHO LOOKS LIKE SHE WANTS TO KILL ME.



I DUNNO. I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE.

STILL, THINGS ARE LOOKING UP.

DAD SAYS CLAIRE MAY JUST BE A POWER DUD.

IF SHE DOESN'T SHOW ANY SIGNS BY NEXT WEEK, I'M OUT OF HERE. JUST IN TIME.



IF I HAD TO BE HERE FOR HOMECOMING, I THINK I'D SHOOT MYSELF.

The End





HEROES

CHAPTER 65 NORMAL LIVES

To escape the ever-watching eyes of The Company, Noah Bennet decided to move his family from Odessa, Texas to sunny California. But little did he know that his past would once again threaten his plans for a better future.

SOMEWHERE IN ARIZONA,
THREE MONTHS AGO...



I KNOW WE CAN'T WAIT TO GET TO OUR NEW HOME IN SUNNY CALIFORNIA...

BUT MR. MUGGLES HAS A THREE STATE DRIVING LIMIT. HE IS PUTTING HIS LITTLE PAW DOWN AND I CAN'T SAY I BLAME HIM!



THESE TWO GUYS WERE ALL MANGLED...



"EVEN THEIR BONES. TWISTED LIKE CRAZY STRAWS. AS IF THEY GREW THAT WAY THEIR WHOLE LIFE."



BUT WE HAVE MUG SHOTS OF THESE GUYS. THEY'RE MUSCLE FOR THE LOCAL BOOKIES. NO DEFORMITIES. SOMETHING TURNED THEM INSIDE OUT. WHAT COULD DO THAT?

THE CORONER CAN'T EXPLAIN IT. AND THIS IS THE SECOND CASE THIS MONTH.

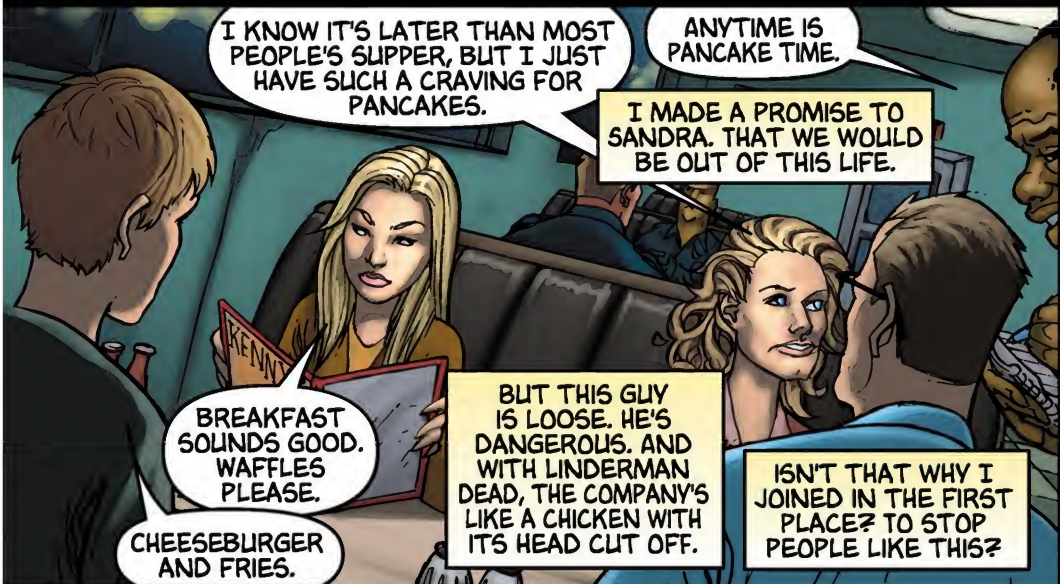
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, CINDY. CUSTOMERS.

THIS SHOULD HAVE NEVER HAPPENED. IT'S HIM. ONE OF MY EARLY CASES. I TOLD THEM HE WAS UNSTABLE.

HELLO FOLKS. WHAT CAN I GET FOR YOU TONIGHT?

BUT NO ONE LISTENED. AND NOW HE'S KILLING.

JUST LIKE I SAID HE WOULD.



I KNOW IT'S LATER THAN MOST PEOPLE'S SUPPER, BUT I JUST HAVE SUCH A CRAVING FOR PANCAKES.

ANYTIME IS PANCAKE TIME.

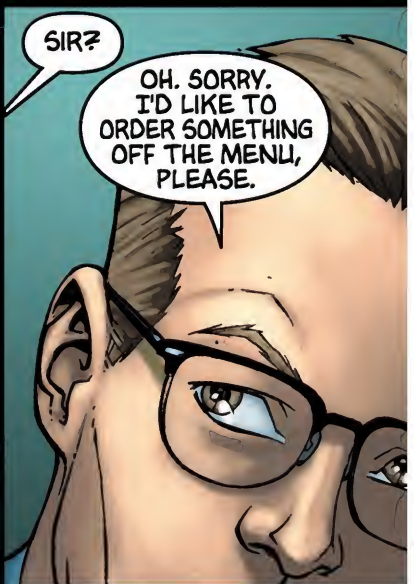
I MADE A PROMISE TO SANDRA. THAT WE WOULD BE OUT OF THIS LIFE.

BREAKFAST SOUNDS GOOD. WAFFLES PLEASE.

CHEESEBURGER AND FRIES.

BUT THIS GUY IS LOOSE. HE'S DANGEROUS. AND WITH LINDERMAN DEAD, THE COMPANY'S LIKE A CHICKEN WITH ITS HEAD CUT OFF.

ISN'T THAT WHY I JOINED IN THE FIRST PLACE? TO STOP PEOPLE LIKE THIS?



SIR?

OH. SORRY. I'D LIKE TO ORDER SOMETHING OFF THE MENU, PLEASE.

A N HOUR LATER...

I'M GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE WALK. STRETCH MY LEGS. THINK THEY CRAMPED UP A LITTLE FROM BEING IN THAT CAR ALL DAY.

NOW WAIT JUST ONE MINUTE.
YOU HAVE OBLIGATIONS TO THIS FAMILY. AND I EXPECT YOU TO KEEP THEM.

I'M TRYING TO.
DON'T TELL ME THAT. TELL HIM.



SANDRA'S KEEPING MY GUN LOCKBOX UNDER THE MOTEL BED. NO WAY I COULD REACH IT WITHOUT HER KNOWING.

THIS WILL HAVE TO DO.



≡WHINE≡

SORRY. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT.



TIME TO GET SOME ANSWERS.



WANT SOME COFFEE, FELLA?

THE DINER DREGS AT THE MIDNIGHT HOUR. ANTI-SOCIAL ENOUGH TO AVOID THE DAY. BUT LONELY ENOUGH TO COME OUT AT NIGHT..

NO THANKS. JUST LOOKING FOR A FRIEND.

HE MUST HAVE GONE OUT BACK.

EVENING, MARCUS. FIGURES YOU'D BE OUT HERE WITH THE TRASH.

HUH, I KNOW YOU? WEREN'T YOU JUST HERE WITH YOUR FAMILY?

I WAS. BUT YOU AND I MET ONCE BEFORE. A FEW YEARS AGO.

DID WE? GUESS MY MEMORY ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE. OLD AGE AN' ALL.

FORTUNATELY MARCUS DOESN'T KNOW THAT HIS MEMORY LOSS IS ACTUALLY A RESULT OF "UNNATURAL CAUSES."

YOUR AGE ISN'T AN EXCUSE TO HURT PEOPLE THE WAY YOU DO.

AH, I SEE WHAT THIS IS ABOUT. YOU GOT MY NUMBER, DON'T YOU? WHAT CAN I SAY...

...I'VE GOT AN ATTITUDE. GET ON MY BAD SIDE, I'LL DO WHAT I WANT TO YA.

I'VE BEEN TRYING NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU. I WANT TO START A NEW LIFE. BUT I CAN'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

HEH, YOU'RE COMING AFTER THE WRONG OLD MAN.

'CAUSE YOU CAN'T STOP ME.

BULLETS. KNIVES. FISTS. I CRUMPLE 'EM BEFORE THEY DO ME ANY HARM.

KRUNCH



DON'T FORGET.
I TOLD YOU WE MET
BEFORE.



I KNOW
YOUR FINGERS
NEED TO TOUCH
WHATEVER YOU'RE
TRYING TO
CRUMPLE.

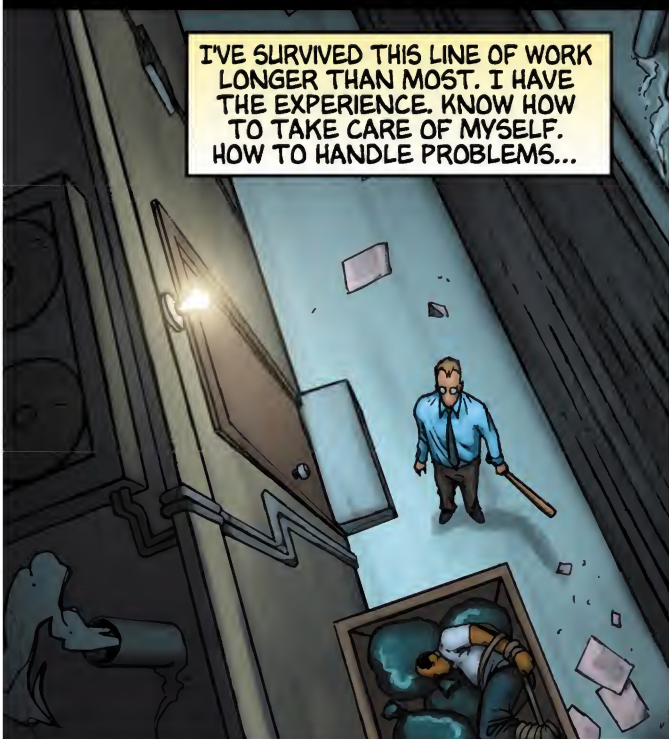


AND
THAT BAD
ATTITUDE
OF YOURS
GETS YOU
NOWHERE.



THEY SAY RESPECT
YOUR ELDER'S. I SAY IT'S A
MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE.

THUNK



I'VE SURVIVED THIS LINE OF WORK
LONGER THAN MOST. I HAVE
THE EXPERIENCE. KNOW HOW
TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
HOW TO HANDLE PROBLEMS...



...SO WHO'S
THE ELDER IN THIS
SITUATION?

HELLO,
BOB...

For a good time
call
310-555-1234

BOB

NOAH, WE'VE BEEN
LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR
YOU. THANK GOODNESS
YOU'VE CALLED.

THIS ISN'T A
FRIENDLY CHAT.
OLD MARCUS HAS BEEN
GETTING INTO TROUBLE.
TRACE THIS CALL.
YOU'LL FIND HIM IN A
DUMPSTER BEHIND
THE DINER.

ONCE AGAIN
YOU'VE PROVEN
YOUR WORTH TO
THE COMPANY.
PLEASE. COME
BACK TO US.

NOT
GOING TO
HAPPEN.

WHAT WE DO DEFINES
YOU, NOAH. WE NEED YOU.
YOUR INSTINCTS ARE TELLING
YOU THE SAME.

MY INSTINCTS
JUST DID YOU A FAVOR.
NOTHING MORE.

ALRIGHT,
HAVE IT YOUR WAY.
WE'LL FIND YOU
SOON ENOUGH.

NO. YOU
WON'T.

THEY WON'T FIND ME UNTIL I WANT TO
BE FOUND. NOT A MOMENT SOONER...

CLICK

G'NIGHT,
HONEY.

GOODNIGHT...

...BECAUSE THE DAY I'M
CAUGHT BY THE COMPANY,
IT'LL BE ON MY OWN TERMS.

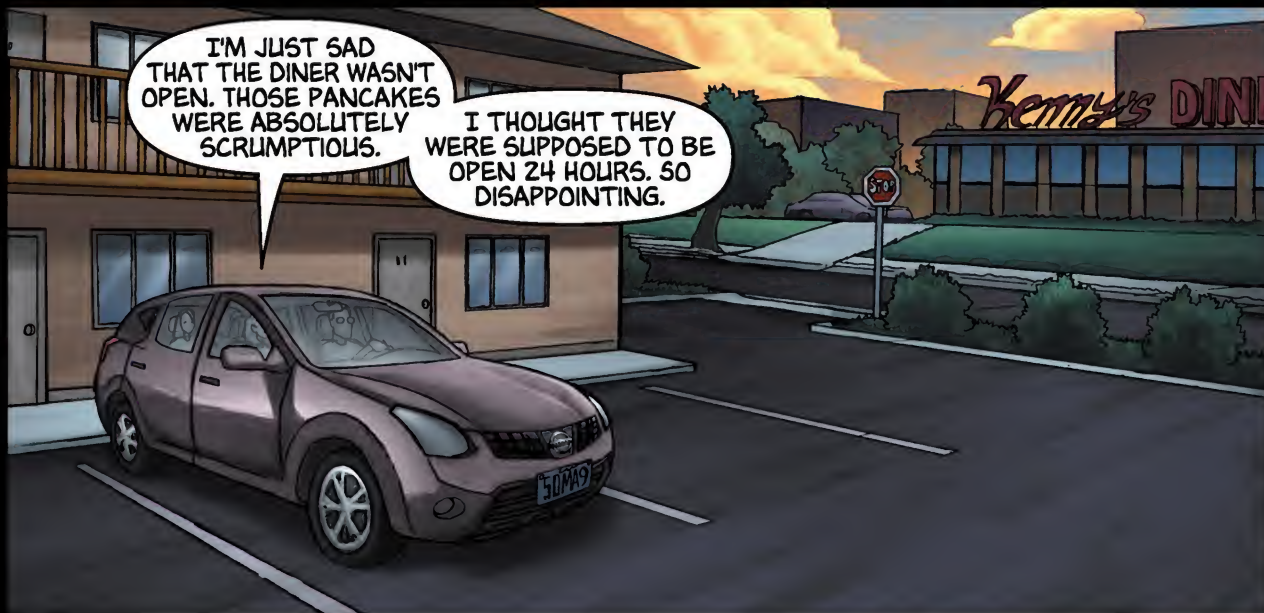


ANYONE NEEDS TO USE THE BATHROOM, IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE NOW.



I KNOW LIFE HAS BEEN CRAZY THE LAST FEW MONTHS. BUT THIS IS LIKE OUR SECOND CHANCE.

IT'S WONDERFUL TO GET A NEW START.



I'M JUST SAD THAT THE DINER WASN'T OPEN. THOSE PANCAKES WERE ABSOLUTELY SCRUMPTIOUS.

I THOUGHT THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE OPEN 24 HOURS. SO DISAPPOINTING.



HEY, WHERE'S MY BAT?

NORMAL LIVES

CHRISTOPHER ZATTA MICAH GUNNELL
& CHUCK KIM *Story* Pencils

MARK ROSLAN JOHN STARR COMICRAFT AN ASPEN M.L.T.
Digital Inks Colors Lettering Production

The End

A VERDE
SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION
PARENTS MUST SIGN
IN VISITORS



HEROES

CHAPTER 66

THE TEN BRIDES OF TAKEZO KENSEI

Over four hundred years old, Takezo Kensei
has outlived entire lineages of families.

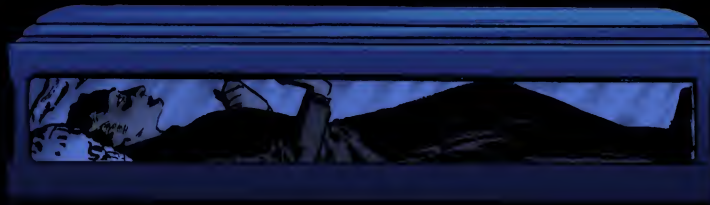
But what of his own?

Who were the loves of Takezo Kensei?

KINGS AND QUEENS. WISE MEN AND LEADERS. PROPHETS AND WARRIORS. I'VE OUTLIVED THE GREATEST MEN AND WOMEN ON THE PLANET.

EVEN AMONG THOSE WHO COULD BEND STEEL WITH THEIR BARE HANDS. OR WIELD THE VERY ELEMENTS. I SURVIVED THEM ALL.

ALL EXCEPT *ONE*.



HIRO NAKAMURA.

THIS IS *TWICE* NOW THAT HE'S KILLED ME.



I'VE BEEN ON THIS EARTH FOR OVER FOUR CENTURIES.

BUT WHAT DO I HAVE TO *SHOW* FOR IT?

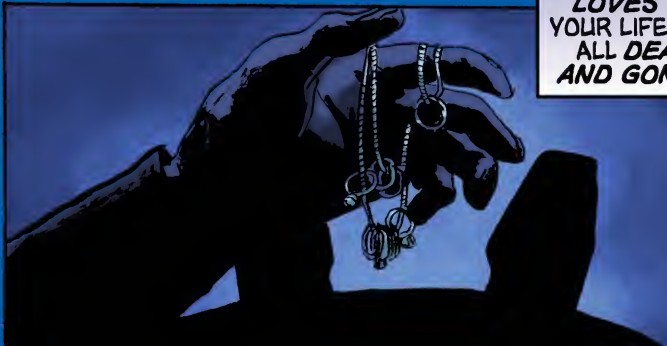
A FEW DOZEN *NAMES*?
TAKEZO KENSEI?
RICHARD SANDERS?
ADAM MONROE?


WHAT GOOD IS *IMMORTALITY* WHEN YOU'RE *BURIED ALIVE*?

WHEN THE *LOVES* OF YOUR LIFE ARE ALL *DEAD AND GONE*?

The **TEN BRIDES** of **TAKEZO KENSEI**

CHUCK KIM **PETER STEIGERWALD**
Writer *Art & Colors*
COMICRAFT Lettering An ASPEN M.L.T. Production

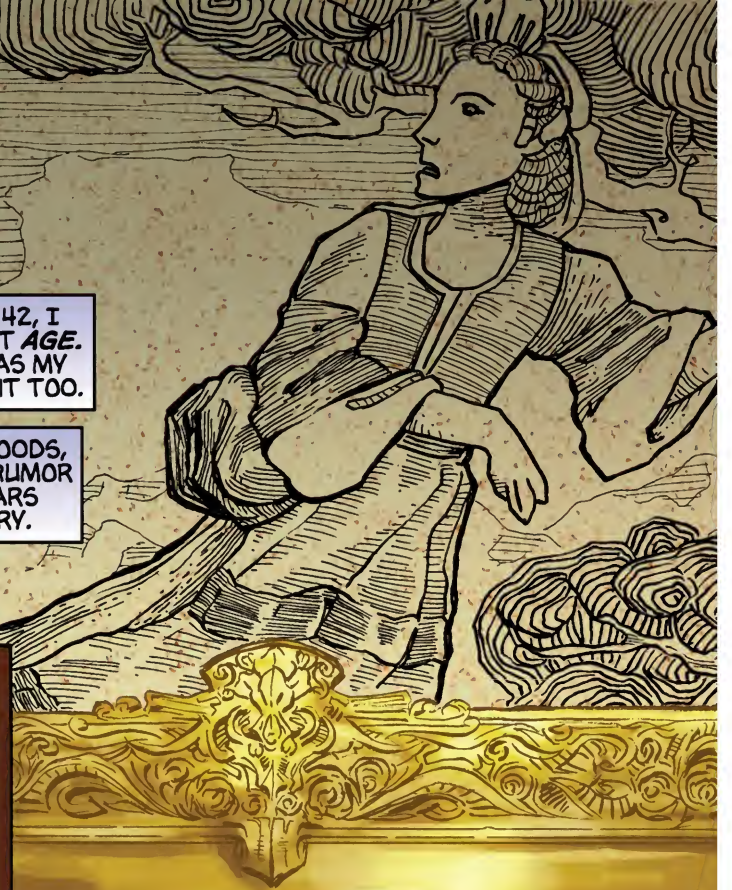





1692, DIEDENSHAUSEN,
GERMANY.

AFTER TURNING 42, I
REALIZED I DID NOT AGE.
AFTER 20 YEARS AS MY
WIFE, HELENE SAW IT TOO.

SHE FLED INTO THE WOODS,
CALLING ME A *DEVIL*. RUMOR
HAS IT SHE DIED YEARS
LATER IN A NUNNERY.



1747, MILAN, ITALY.




MY SECOND WIFE,
MARIA, BORE ME
TWO SONS.

EVEN AFTER A
CENTURY OF LIVING, I
LEARNED SOMETHING
NEW -- I DON'T LIKE
CHILDREN.

I LEFT THEM WITH
TWO SACKS OF COIN
AND LEFT FOR THE
NEW COUNTRY TO
BEGIN AGAIN.

1782, I ABANDONED
THE QUEEN'S FORCES
FOR PARIS, FRANCE.

MY NEXT WIFE I
MET AT A BALL AT
THE VERSAILLES.



PROUD OF HER
LOOKS, I NEVER SAW
FREDERICA OUT OF
HER FACE POWDER
AND ROUGE.

IT WAS THAT LOVE
OF LEAD-BASED
COSMETICS THAT
LED TO HER
UNTIMELY END.

1784, JAPAN.

SEARCHING FOR DIRECTION, I RETURNED TO JAPAN TO FIND YAEKO'S DESCENDANTS.

I THOUGHT I COULD FIND FULFILLMENT BY WINNING HER HEART. OR HER GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER'S.

YUMI, WHILE BEAUTIFUL, WAS NOT YAEKO. I GREW BORED AND FAKED MY DROWNING WITH A CAREFULLY PLANNED ACCIDENT.

1787- THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

I TOOK A NEW NAME AND A NEW WIFE. OUT OF LOVE, I CONFESSED MY SECRET TO HER, THAT I CANNOT DIE.

ANGELICA AND I WERE TOGETHER FOR 62 YEARS, TELLING PEOPLE I WAS HER HUSBAND. THEN SON. THEN GRANDSON.

WE HELD HANDS AS SHE BREATHED HER LAST BREATH, AT AGE 87.

1864 - I MARRIED MY SECOND MARIA IN ATLANTA, AT THE ONSET OF THE CIVIL WAR, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, I CHOSE THE LOSING SIDE. *AGAIN*.

WHILE I FOUGHT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, SHE DIED IN A PLANTATION FIRE AFTER INHALING TOO MUCH SMOKE.

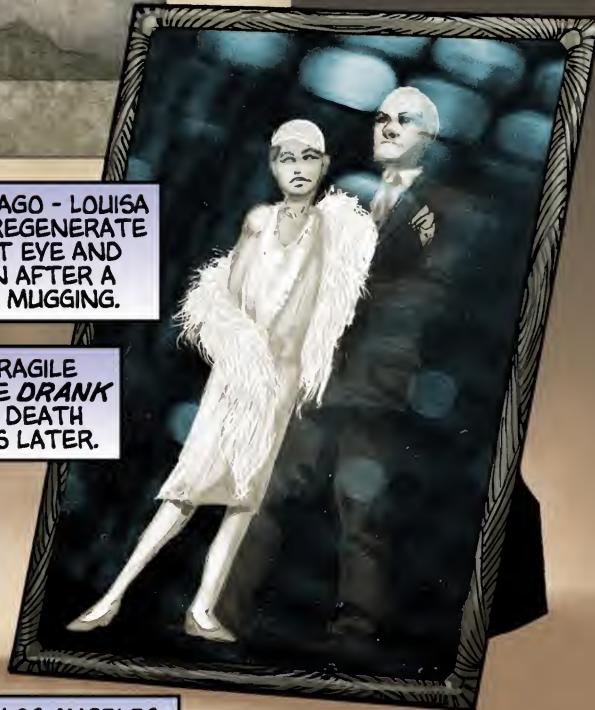
MONTREAL 1901 - I PUT MY FRENCH BACK TO GOOD USE AND MEET A CAPTIVATING BEAUTY: DIANE.



AFTER A HARSH WINTER, SHE'S STRICKEN WITH TUBERCULOSIS. AS A LAST MEASURE, I INJECTED HER WITH A VIAL OF MY BLOOD AS SHE SLEPT.

THE DOCTORS CALLED HER RECOVERY A *MIRACLE*. SHE DIED A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL DEATH, 20 YEARS LATER.

1926, CHICAGO - LOUISA SAW ME REGENERATE MY LEFT EYE AND SPLEEN AFTER A VICIOUS MUGGING.



EVER THE FRAGILE CREATURE, SHE *DRANK* HERSELF TO DEATH FOUR MONTHS LATER.



1958 - LOS ANGELES.

THERESA NEVER LOVED ME. I LEARNED THIS WHEN SHE AND HER LOVER SHOT ME TWICE IN THE CHEST. THEN DUMPED MY BODY OFF A CLIFF.

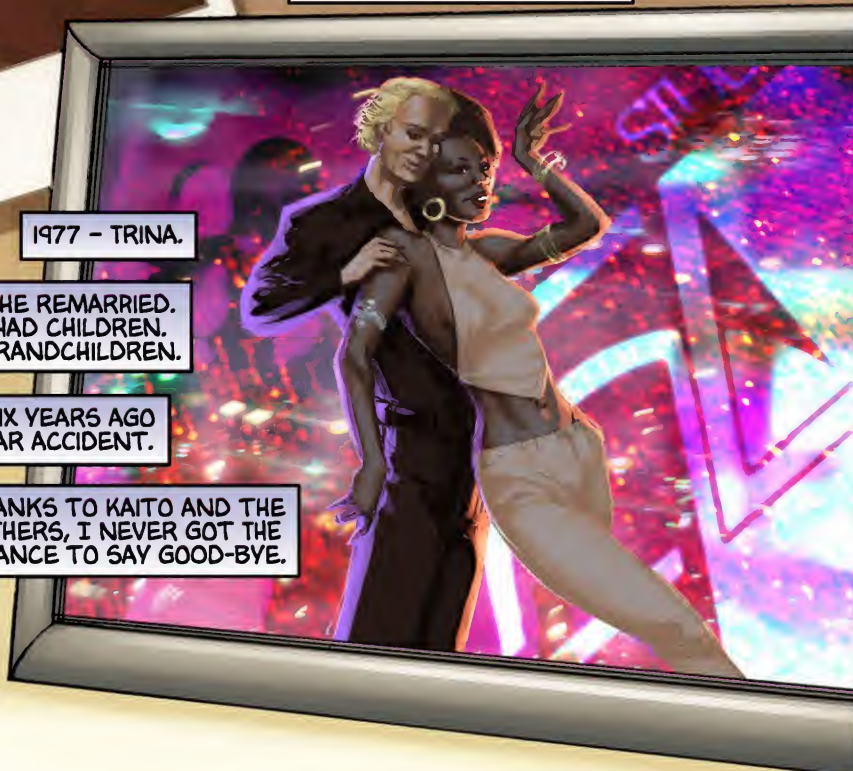
BY MORNING, I SWAM BACK TO SHORE AND KILLED THEM AS THEY SLEPT.

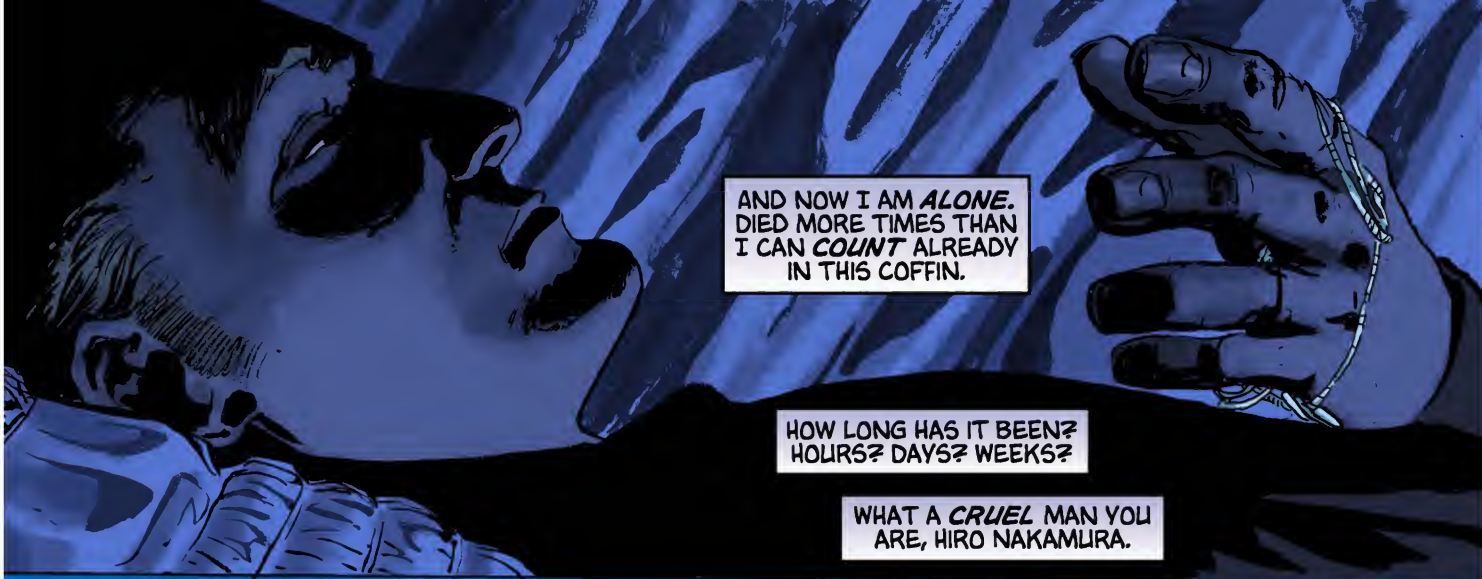
1977 - TRINA.

SHE REMARRIED. HAD CHILDREN. GRANDCHILDREN.

DIED SIX YEARS AGO IN A CAR ACCIDENT.

THANKS TO KAITO AND THE OTHERS, I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO SAY GOOD-BYE.





AND NOW I AM *ALONE*.
DIED MORE TIMES THAN
I CAN *COUNT* ALREADY
IN THIS COFFIN.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
HOURS? DAYS? WEEKS?

WHAT A *CRUEL* MAN YOU
ARE, HIRO NAKAMLIRA.



BUT THAT SUITS
ME *FINE*.

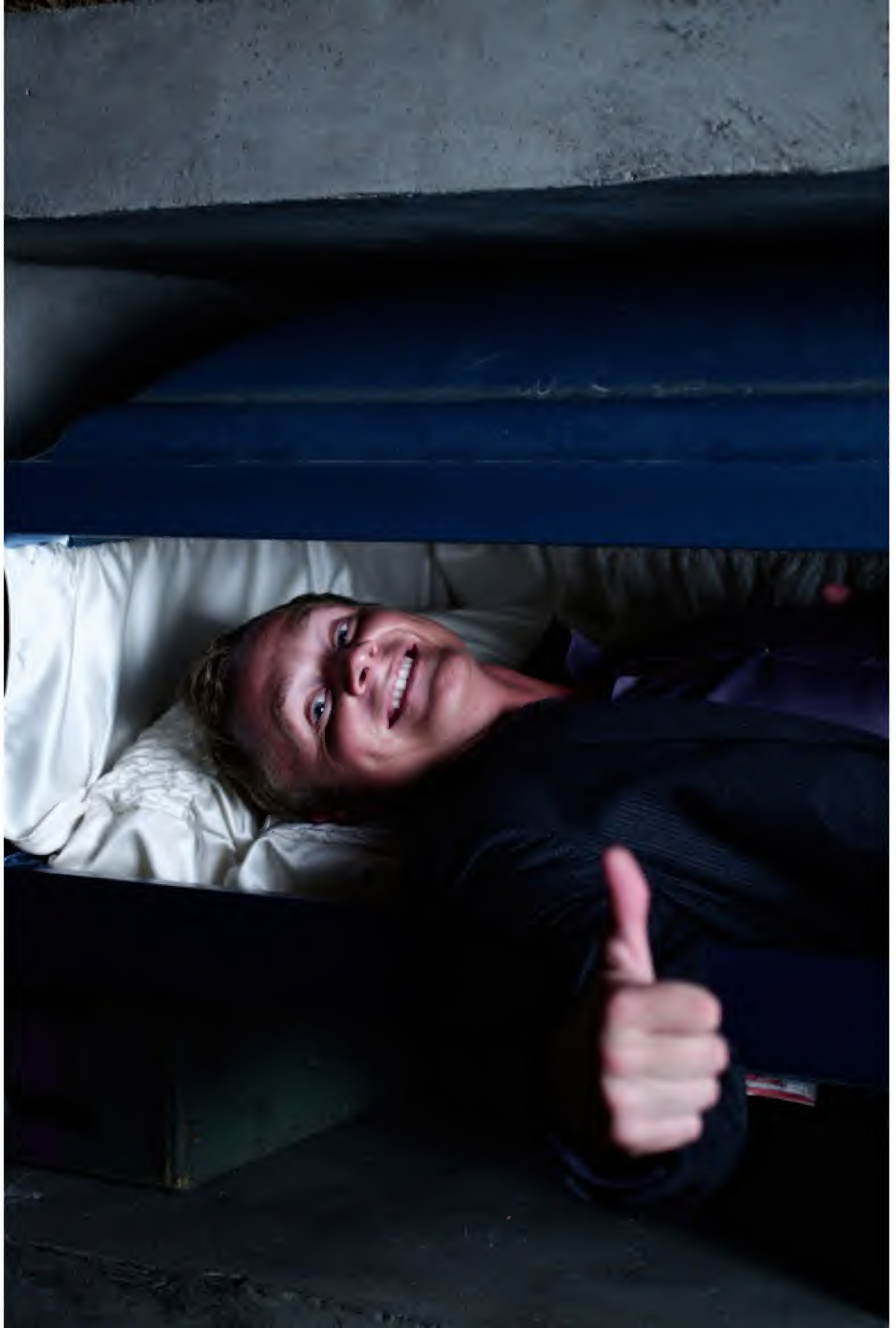


BECAUSE I
HAVE MY
NEWEST
BRIDE OUT
THERE...

...AND I'M
CERTAIN SHE'LL
FIND ME.



End

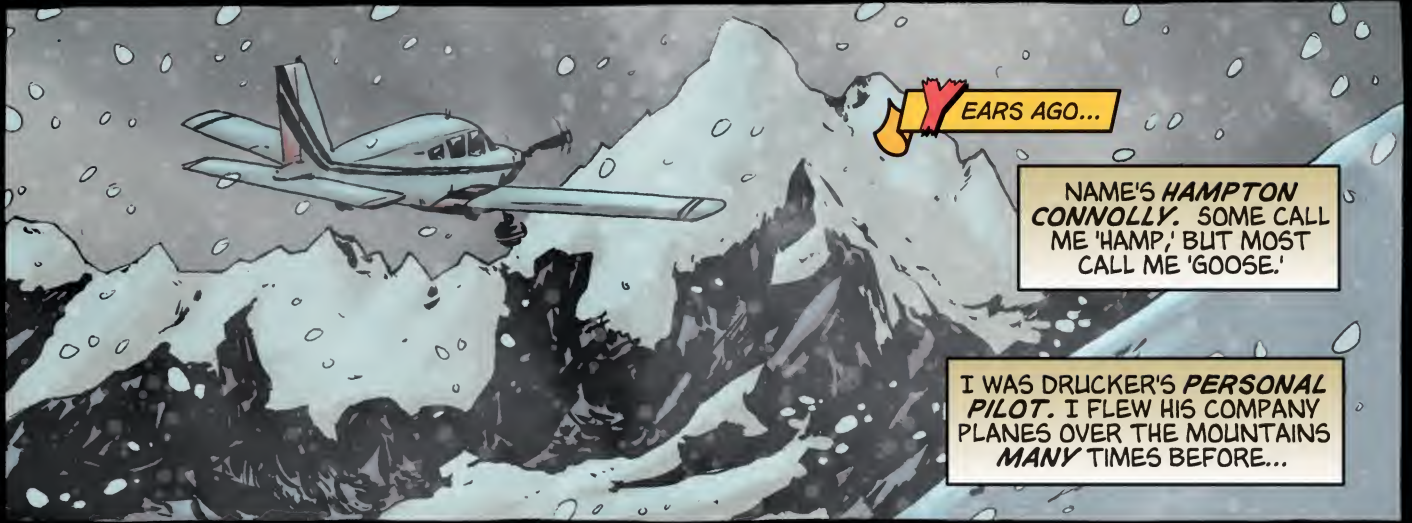


HEROES

CHAPTER 67

THE GOLDEN GOOSE

It is rumored that the enigmatic Richard Drucker is living among the monks of the Himalayas. Drucker has lived all over the world, but how did he end up in Bhutan? And why has he remained there to this day?



Y EARS AGO...

NAME'S *HAMPTON CONNOLLY*. SOME CALL ME 'HAMP,' BUT MOST CALL ME 'GOOSE.'

I WAS DRUCKER'S *PERSONAL PILOT*. I FLEW HIS COMPANY PLANES OVER THE MOUNTAINS *MANY* TIMES BEFORE...

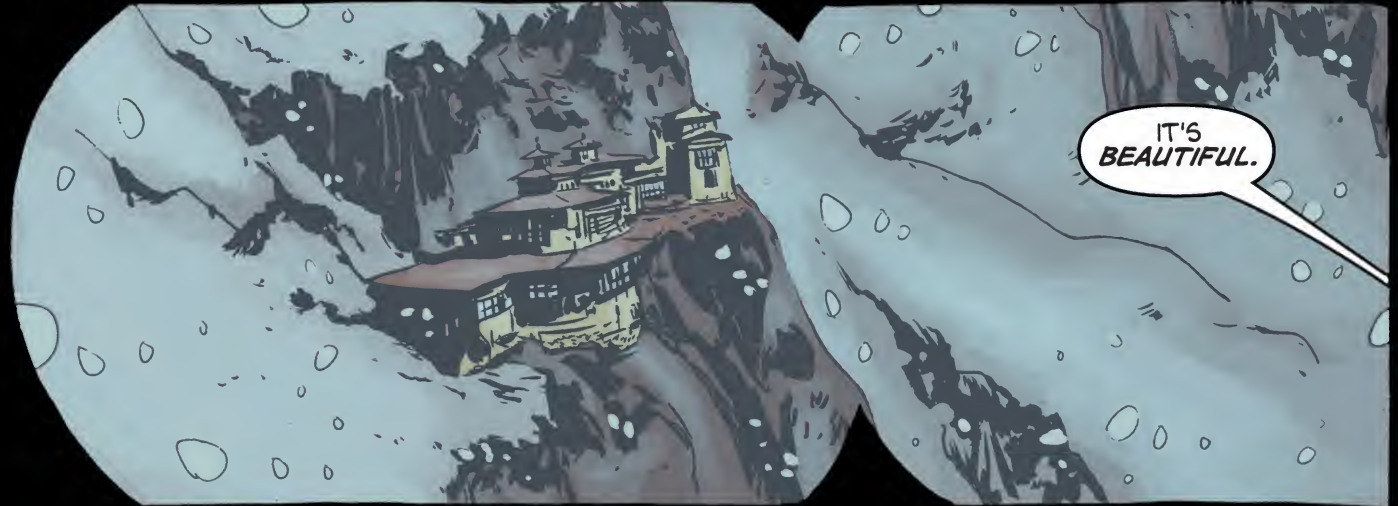


...THIS WOULD BE MY LAST.

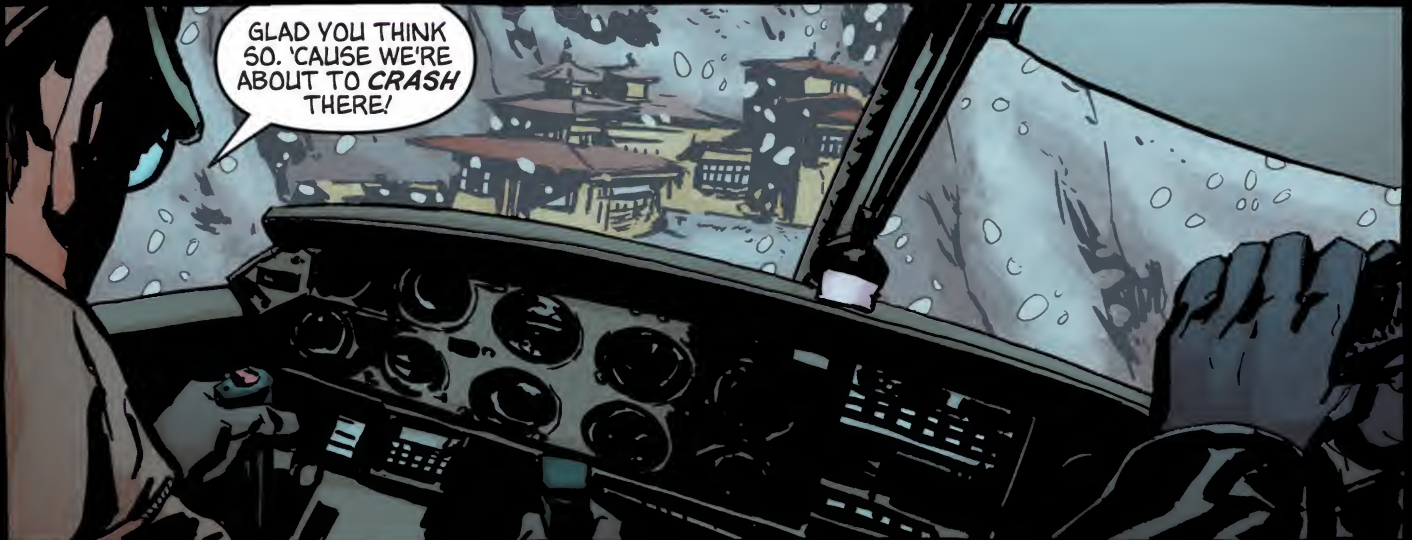


YOU *SURE* ABOUT THIS?

I GOT IT.



IT'S *BEAUTIFUL*.



GLAD YOU THINK SO. 'CAUSE WE'RE ABOUT TO *CRASH* THERE!

The GOLDEN GOOSE

JOHN O'HARA *Story* MICHAEL GAYDOS *Art*
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR *COMICRAFT* NANCI QUESADA
Colors *Lettering* *Editor*



JP RESENT DAY...

DRUCKER DECIDED IT WAS FATE CALLING HIM HERE. WHO WAS I TO DISAGREE?

PLUS, THE GIRLS WERE NICE AND I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE ANYWHERE. SO WE STAYED. FOR FIFTEEN YEARS.

I THOUGHT YOU HAD A NO-COMPUTER RULE HERE.

WHAT'S A RULE UNLESS YOU CAN BREAK IT.

CLIK

YOU'RE NOT DRUCKER.

AND I TAKE IT YOU'RE NOT MY MASSEUSE.

NO, I'M CERTAINLY NOT. WHERE IS HE?



I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THE CRASH.



"I SHOULD HAVE NEVER LET HIM FLY UNDER SUCH ROUGH CONDITIONS, HE WAS ONLY AN AMATEUR."



"THE LOCAL MONKS TOOK CARE OF HIM."



"WHEN I WENT TO CHECK ON HIM, HE WAS GONE..."



WHERE



IS



HE?

ARRRGGH!



LIKE I SAID!
DRUCKER'S
VANISHED.

DRUCKER'S
ALIVE. NOW
TELL ME WHERE
HE IS OR YOU
WON'T BE.



OKAY, OKAY. HE
LEFT A MONTH
OR TWO AGO.

BUT HE DIDN'T
TELL ME *WHERE*
HE WAS HEADING.
I *SWEAR!*



DO YOU
REALLY
TAKE ME
FOR SUCH A
FOOL?



To Be Continued...

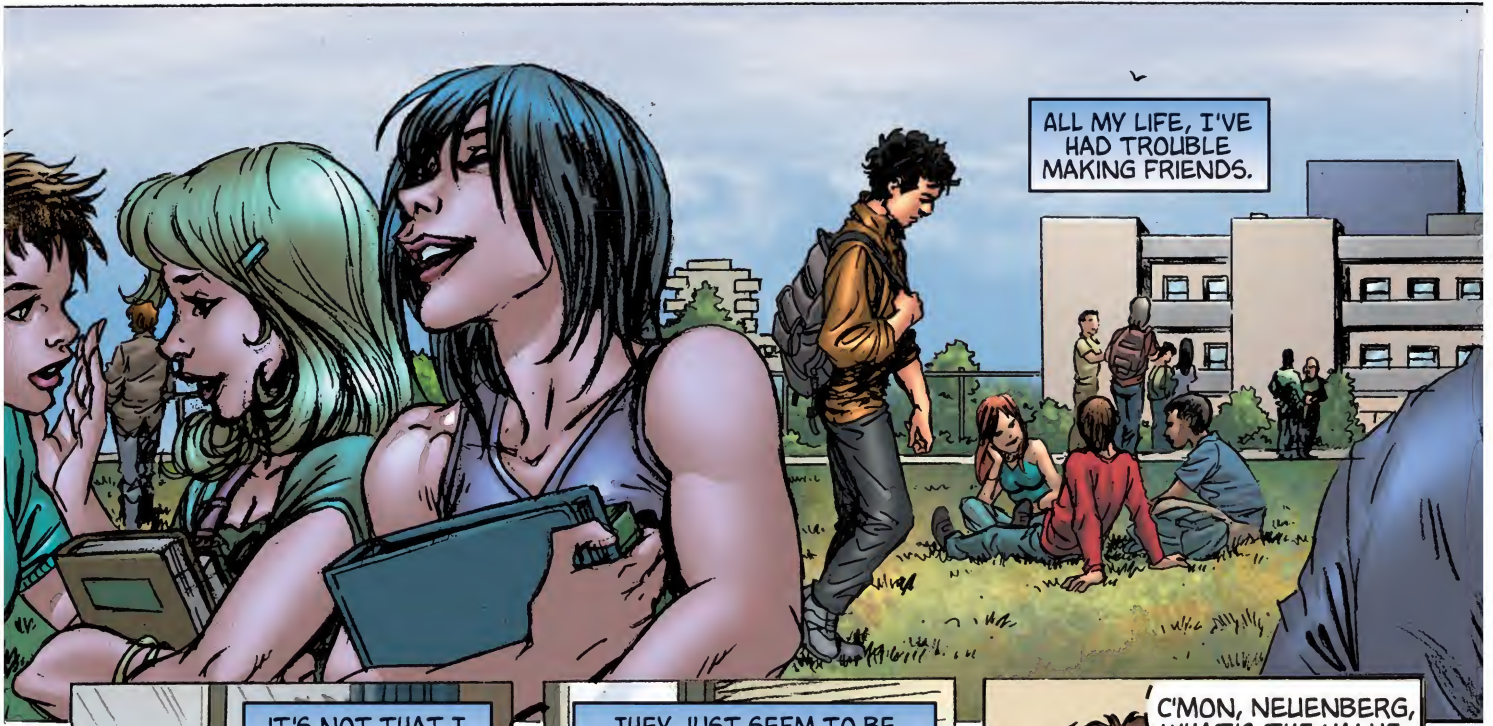


HEROES

CHAPTER 68

THE MAN with TOO MUCH BRAINS

Sometimes in school, the smarter you are, the harder it is to fit in. Matt Neuenberg has always felt like an outsider because of his unique gift of memory. Luckily for him, The Company is always in search of those who don't exactly fit in.



ALL MY LIFE, I'VE HAD TROUBLE MAKING FRIENDS.

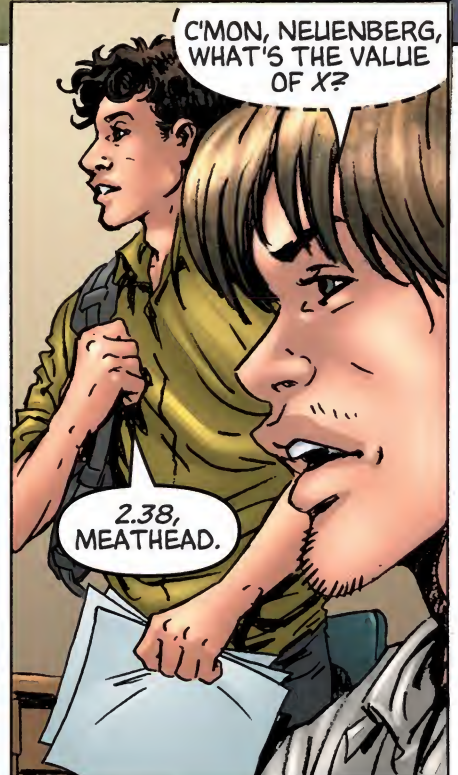


IT'S NOT THAT I HAVEN'T WANTED FRIENDS...



THEY JUST SEEM TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT I CAN DO THAN WHO I AM.

PSST. HEY EINSTEIN, WHAT'S THE AXIS OF SYMMETRY FOR #7?

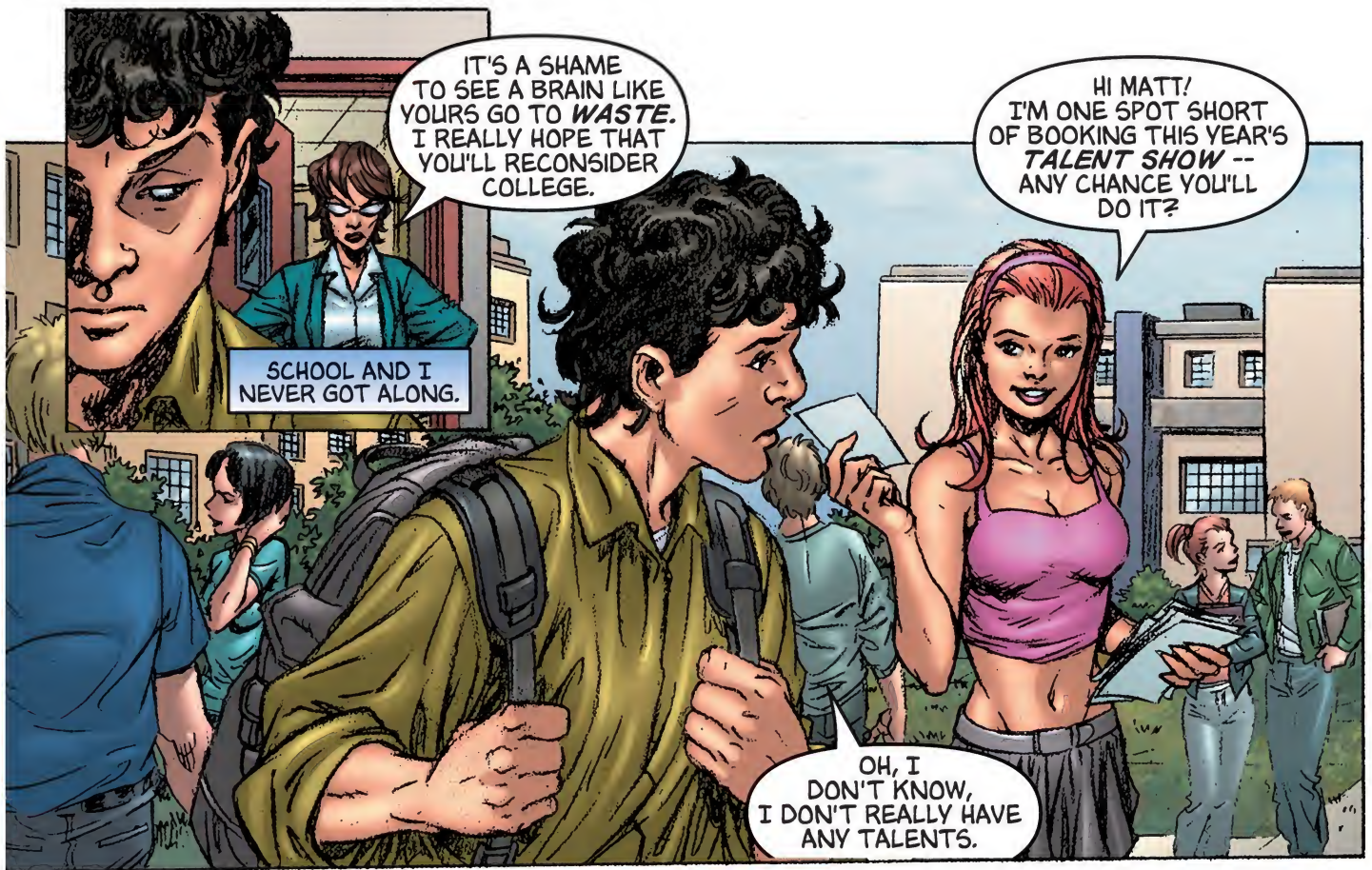


C'MON, NEUENBERG, WHAT'S THE VALUE OF X?

2.38, MEATHEAD.



MATT NEUENBERG!

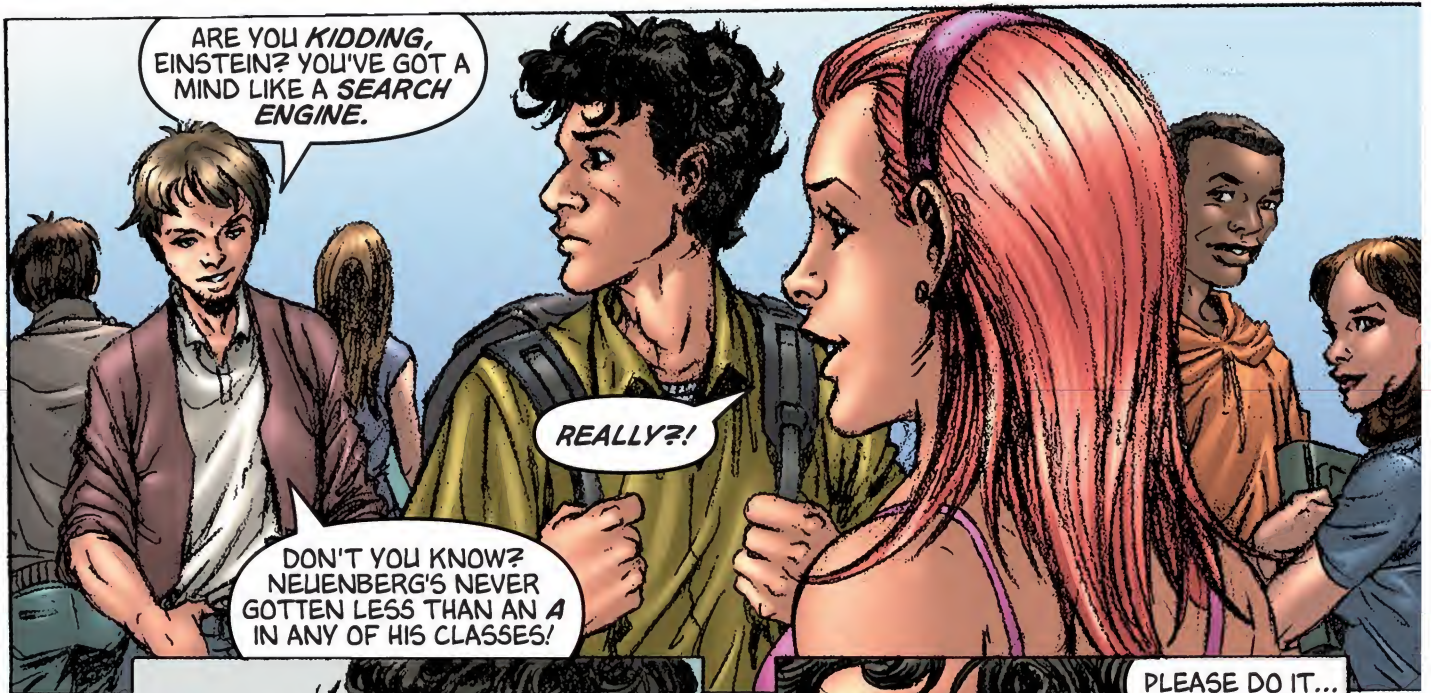


IT'S A SHAME TO SEE A BRAIN LIKE YOURS GO TO WASTE. I REALLY HOPE THAT YOU'LL RECONSIDER COLLEGE.

HI MATT! I'M ONE SPOT SHORT OF BOOKING THIS YEAR'S TALENT SHOW -- ANY CHANCE YOU'LL DO IT?

SCHOOL AND I NEVER GOT ALONG.

OH, I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY TALENTS.



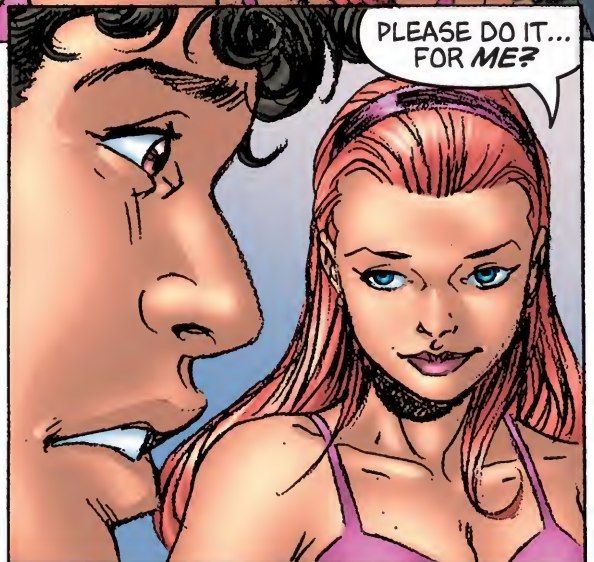
ARE YOU KIDDING, EINSTEIN? YOU'VE GOT A MIND LIKE A SEARCH ENGINE.

REALLY?!

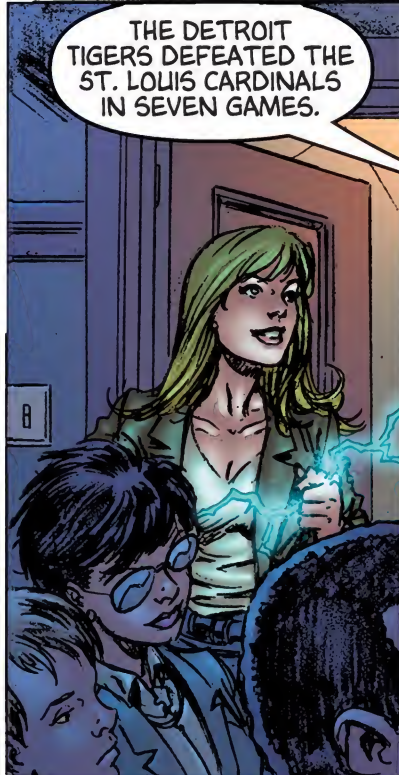
DON'T YOU KNOW? NEUBERG'S NEVER GOTTEN LESS THAN AN A IN ANY OF HIS CLASSES!



THAT'S NOT TRUE. I F-FAILED PUBLIC SPEAKING.



PLEASE DO IT... FOR ME?





YOU KNOW, THERE'S A PLACE WHERE BEING DIFFERENT IS SEEN AS A GOOD THING.

WHO'S THERE? WHO SAID THAT?



I'M ELLE.

I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE WHERE YOU'LL FINALLY FIT IN.

SUCH A PLACE DOESN'T EXIST.



I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ALONE. I PROMISE YOU THIS IS LIKE NOWHERE YOU'VE BEEN BEFORE.

AND WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?



OR DO I HAVE A CHOICE?

TRUST ME. I'LL PROTECT YOU.



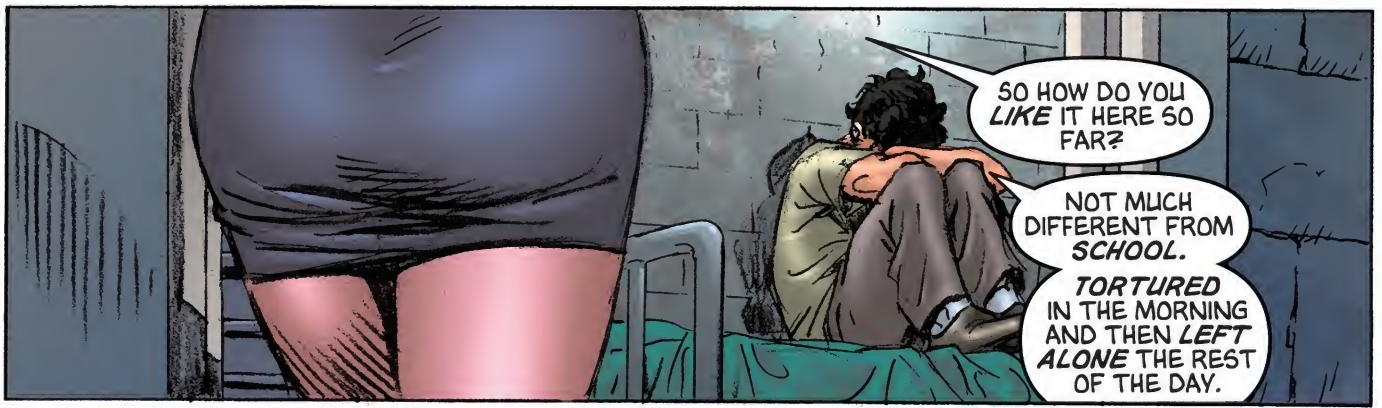
WELL, WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME?

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

The **MAN WITH TOO (MUCH) BRAINS**

CARRI WAGNER and JOHN O'HARA *Story* TOM GRUMMETT *Art* CHRIS SOTOMAYOR *Colors* COMICRAFT *Lettering* NANCI QUESADA *Editor*





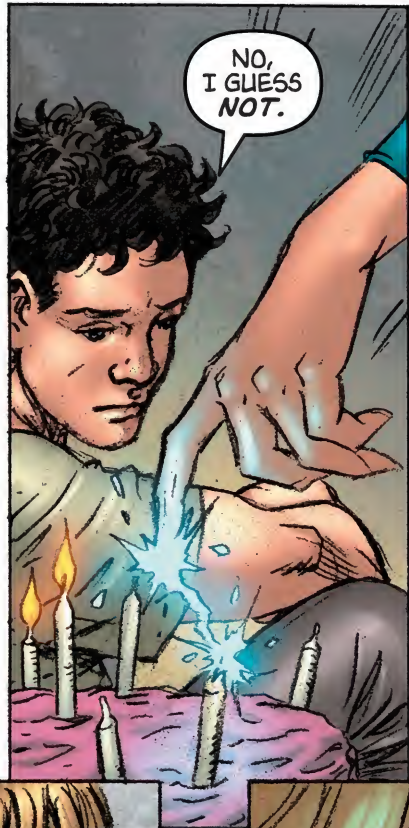
SO HOW DO YOU LIKE IT HERE SO FAR?

NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM SCHOOL.

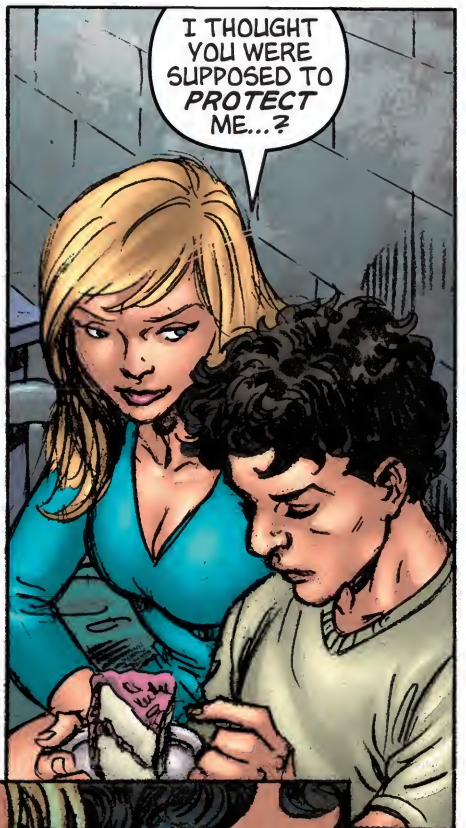
TORTURED IN THE MORNING AND THEN LEFT ALONE THE REST OF THE DAY.



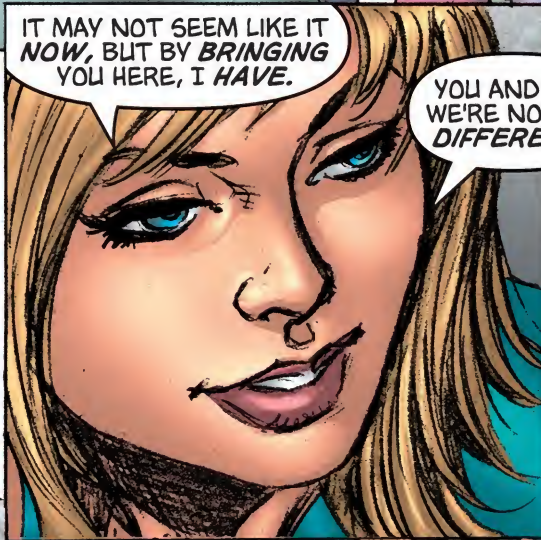
WELL, THEY DON'T BAKE YOU CAKES AT SCHOOL, DO THEY?



NO, I GUESS NOT.

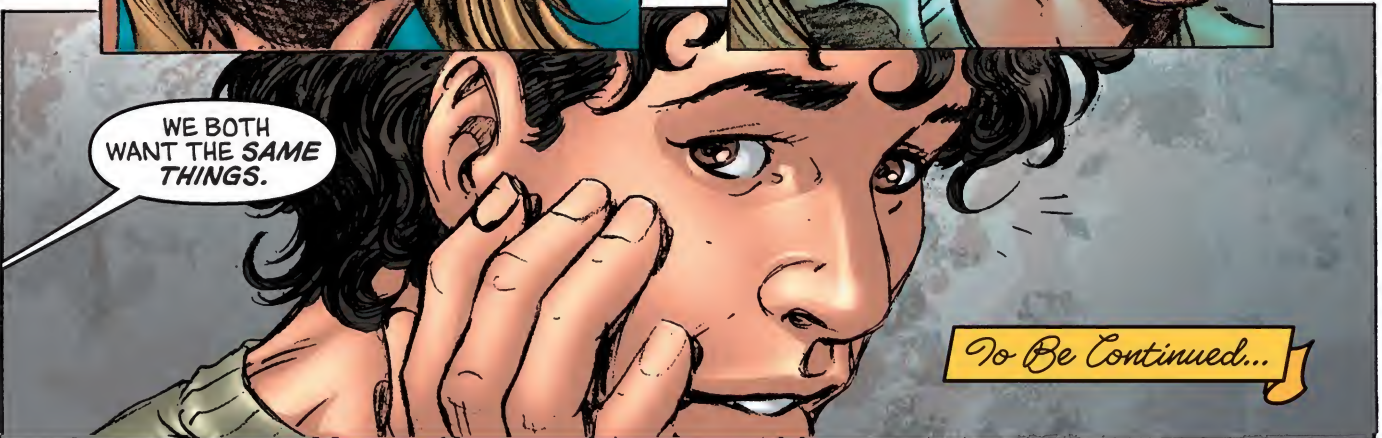


I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT ME...?



IT MAY NOT SEEM LIKE IT NOW, BUT BY BRINGING YOU HERE, I HAVE.

YOU AND ME, WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT.



WE BOTH WANT THE SAME THINGS.

To Be Continued...

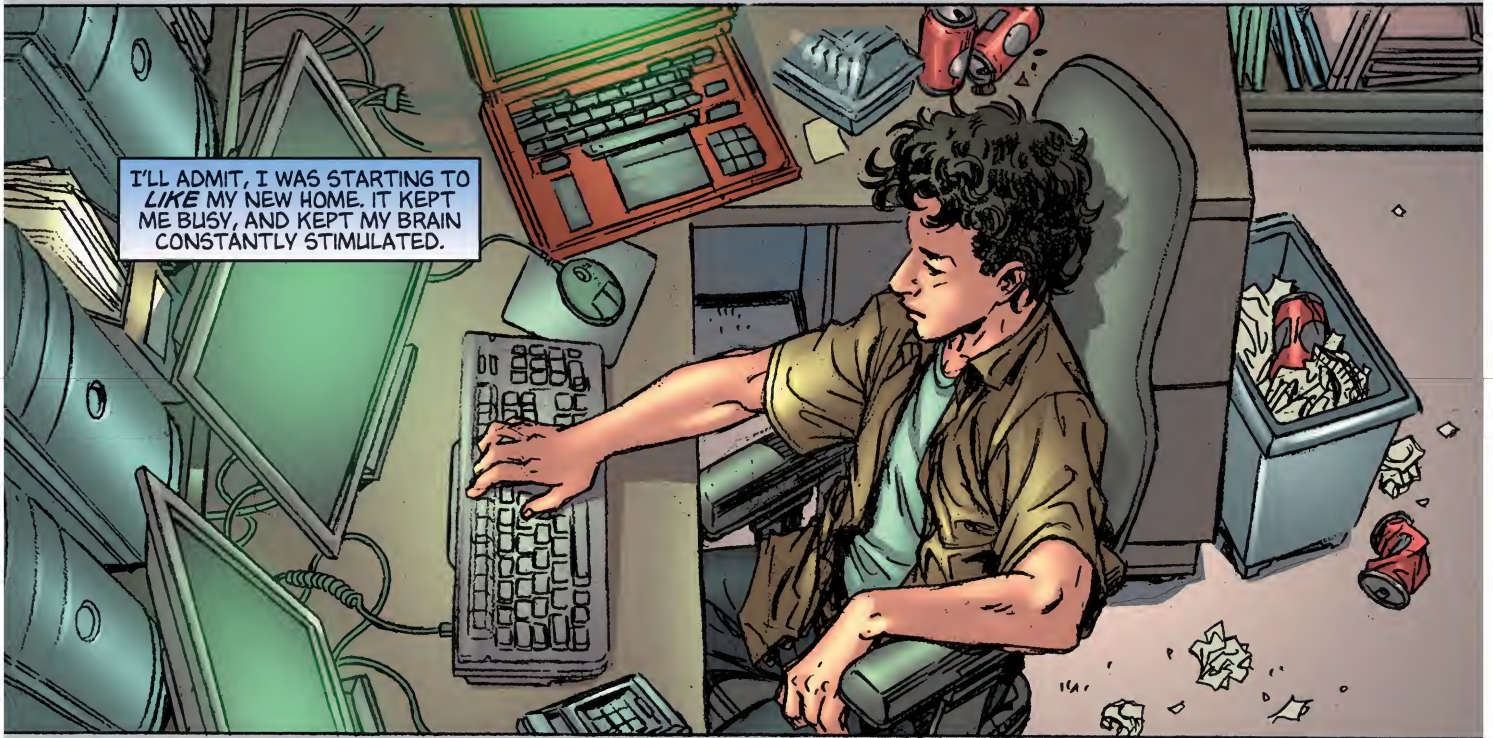


HEROES

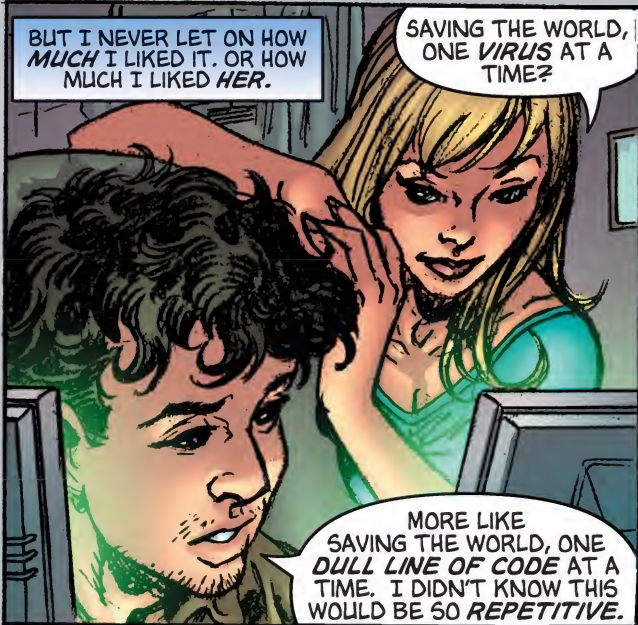
CHAPTER 69

HANA and DRUCKER'S PLOT DISCOVERED

The Company successfully recruited Matt Neuenberg to help them with their operations. It didn't hurt that when Matt met Elle, sparks began to fly. Now, Matt lives under The Company's roof and his powers are really put to the test.



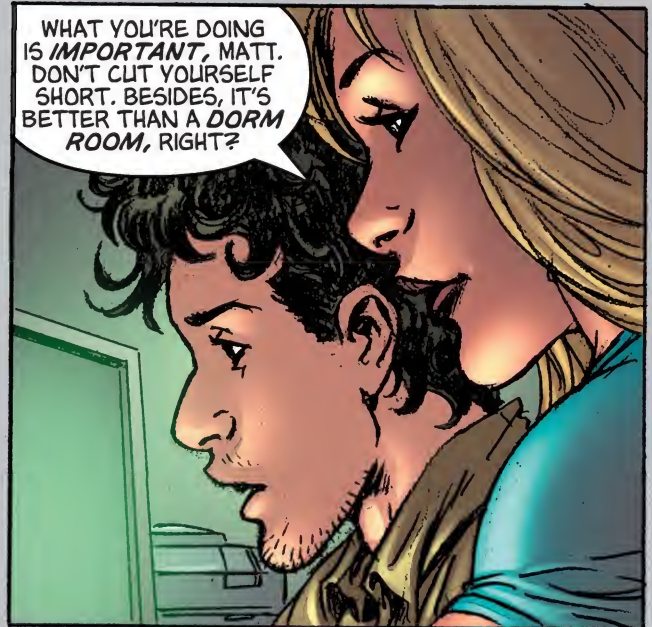
I'LL ADMIT, I WAS STARTING TO *LIKE* MY NEW HOME. IT KEPT ME BUSY, AND KEPT MY BRAIN CONSTANTLY STIMULATED.



BUT I NEVER LET ON HOW *MUCH* I LIKED IT. OR HOW MUCH I LIKED *HER*.

SAVING THE WORLD, ONE *VIRUS* AT A TIME?

MORE LIKE SAVING THE WORLD, ONE *DULL LINE OF CODE* AT A TIME. I DIDN'T KNOW THIS WOULD BE SO *REPETITIVE*.



WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS *IMPORTANT*, MATT. DON'T CUT YOURSELF SHORT. BESIDES, IT'S BETTER THAN A *DORM ROOM*, RIGHT?



YOU MEAN MY *CELL*?



OH, IT'S NOT SO BAD. YOU GET TO HANG OUT WITH *ME*, RIGHT?

OWW!



HEY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO HANG OUT?

I'M GONNA STEAL A DONUT FROM THE SNACK MACHINE. WANT ONE?

CAN I GO WITH YOU?

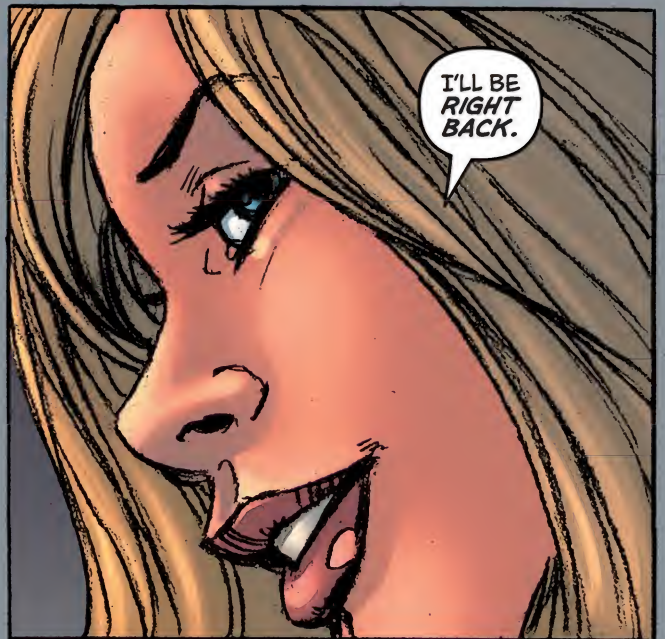
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED OUT OF THIS ROOM. REMEMBER?



OH... YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

AWWW, I'LL GET YOU A DONUT TOO. ON ME.

NEVER MIND.



I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.



I'LL BE HERE.

AS ALWAYS.



WHERE DID YOU TWO COME FROM?

Unrecognized files...
T.MDNK 70000KB
K.APILA 54000KB

INSIDE THE MAINFRAME...

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

Hana? Can you understand me?

K.APILA (ENCRYPTED):

Drucker? I can understand you, but I still can't fully comprehend what's happening here.

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

We are inside the mainframe. These are the closest representations that I can conjure of our Purushas.

K.APILA (EN...)

Purushas?

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

The Purusha is the part of you not bound to your physical body.

K.APILA (ENC...)

Like a soul?

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

You could call it a spirit or a soul.

K.APILA (ENCRYPTED):

So this place is in the soul?

K.APILA (ENCRYPTED):

You created this?

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

Heh. Although people like to say I created the internet, that's not entirely true.

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

Cyberspace is not an invention, it's actually a universe.

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

No, this is only a vessel for our Purushas, not that they require one. Your Purusha is limitless and requires nothing. It's shapeless; yet, you can shape it at will.

K.APILA (ENCRYPTED):

A universe?

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

I have summoned you here, Hana.

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

I need you to help me pull a viral file from my hard drive location. It's almost finished, but I've found the file too massive to pull alone.

K.APILA (ENCRYPTED):

Could someone track this transmission?

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

Possibly, but outside of destroying the mainframe, which is our goal, there is nothing they can do.

T.MONK (ENCRYPTED):

A sentient universe that communicated with me via musical notes. It gave me permission to show it to the world.

K.APILA (ENCR...)

So, what's the location you mentioned?



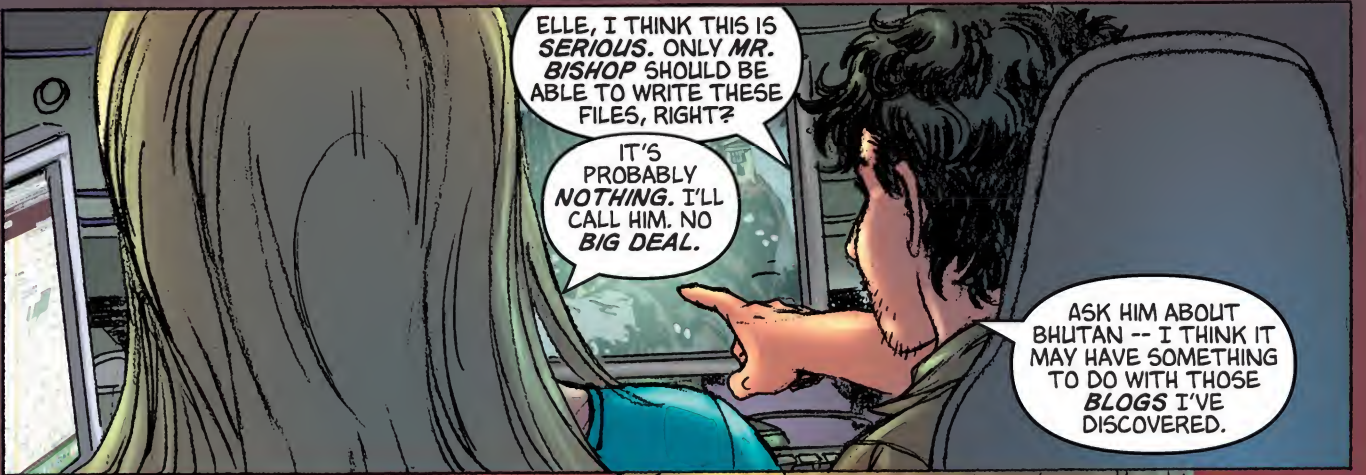
BHUTAN?
WHY WOULD
ANYONE SEND
DATA FROM
BHUTAN?



NO, IT'S
THESE FILES --
THEY ORIGINATE
FROM BHUTAN. DOES
THAT MAKE SENSE
TO YOU?

WHY WOULD
ANYONE DO
ANYTHING IN
BHUTAN?

DON'T ASK ME.
YOU'RE THE
KEYBOARD SAMURAI.



ELLE, I THINK THIS IS
SERIOUS. ONLY MR.
BISHOP SHOULD BE
ABLE TO WRITE THESE
FILES, RIGHT?

IT'S
PROBABLY
NOTHING. I'LL
CALL HIM. NO
BIG DEAL.

ASK HIM ABOUT
BHUTAN -- I THINK IT
MAY HAVE SOMETHING
TO DO WITH THOSE
BLOGS I'VE
DISCOVERED.



DADDY, I KNOW
YOU'RE BUSY, BUT I'VE
FOUND SOMETHING IN THE
FILES MATT'S WORKING
ON. SOMETHING ABOUT
BHUTAN?

DOES
THAT MAKE ANY
SENSE?

MOVE!



WHAT'S GOING ON?

THERE'S A **PROTOCOL!** WE'RE INITIATING IT!



I DIDN'T KNOW IT COULD DO THAT...?

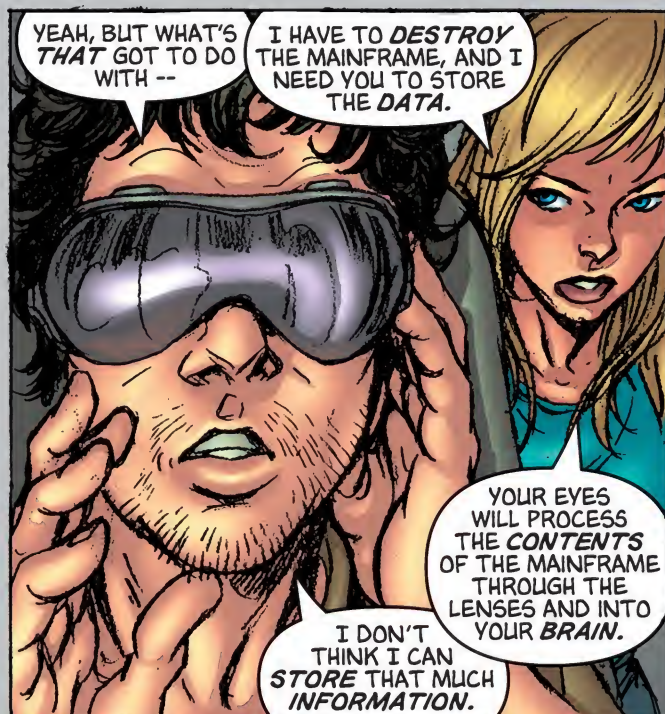


WHAT ARE **THOSE?**

PART OF THE SECURITY **PROTOCOL.** YOU ARE A VISUAL AND AUDIBLE **LEARNER,** RIGHT?

WHAT?

THAT'S HOW YOU **STORE** ALL THAT INFORMATION IN YOUR **HEAD,** RIGHT?



YEAH, BUT WHAT'S **THAT** GOT TO DO WITH --

I HAVE TO **DESTROY** THE MAINFRAME, AND I NEED YOU TO **STORE** THE **DATA.**

YOUR EYES WILL PROCESS THE **CONTENTS** OF THE MAINFRAME THROUGH THE LENSES AND INTO YOUR **BRAIN.**

I DON'T THINK I CAN **STORE** THAT MUCH **INFORMATION.**



YOU KNOW ALL THOSE **TESTS** THEY PUT YOU THROUGH? THEY KNOW **EXACTLY** WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF. IF IT'S IN THE **PROTOCOL,** THAT MEANS YOU CAN **DO** IT.

BUT --

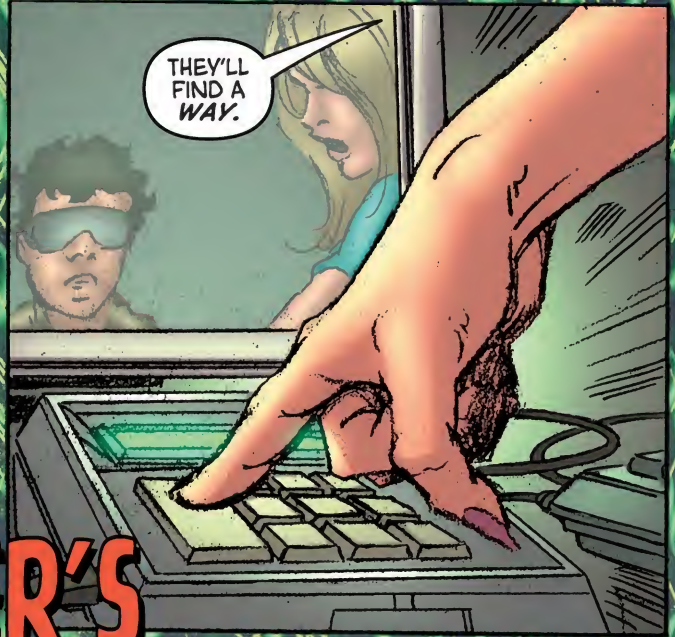
TRUST ME. I WOULDN'T **LIE** TO YOU.



WILL IT HURT?

IT'S PAINLESS, I PROMISE.

HOW WILL THEY GET THE DATA OUT?



THEY'LL FIND A WAY.

HANA *and* DRUCKER'S PLOT DISCOVERED

R.D. HALL *Story* TOM GRUMMETT *Art*
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR *Colors* COMICRAFT *Lettering* NANCI QUESADA *Editor*



To Be Continued...

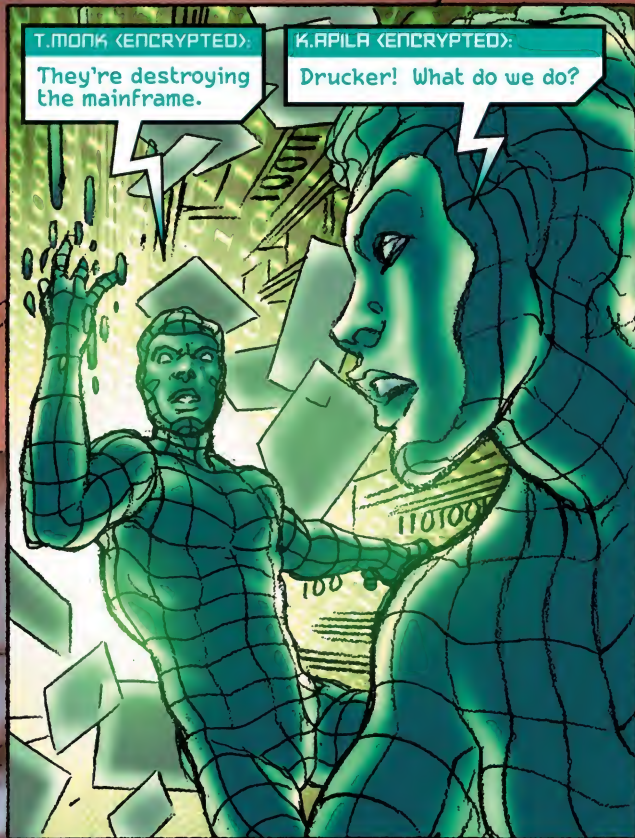


HEROES

CHAPTER 70

THE END of HANA and DRUCKER

Searching through files, Matt Neuenberg finds Hana and Drucker hacking into The Company's mainframe. Neuenberg is forced to download the entire database into his memory in order to protect The Company's files and stop Hana and Drucker from gaining access to them.



T.MONK <ENCRYPTED>:
They're destroying
the mainframe.

K.APILA <ENCRYPTED>:
Drucker! What do we do?



T.MONK <ENCRYPTED>:
I'm afraid there is
nothing we can do.

K.APILA <ENCR...>
Phir Milengay
Drucker.

THE END OF HANA and DRUCKER

R.D. HALL TOM GRUMMETT
Story Art
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR COMICRAFT
Colors Lettering
NANCI QUESADA *Editor*



MATT,
WAKE UP!
COME ON!



WHAT'S GOING ON?
I INITIATED THE *PROTOCOL*, JUST LIKE YOU SAID.

MATT DOWNLOADED ALL THE DATA INTO HIS BRAIN!

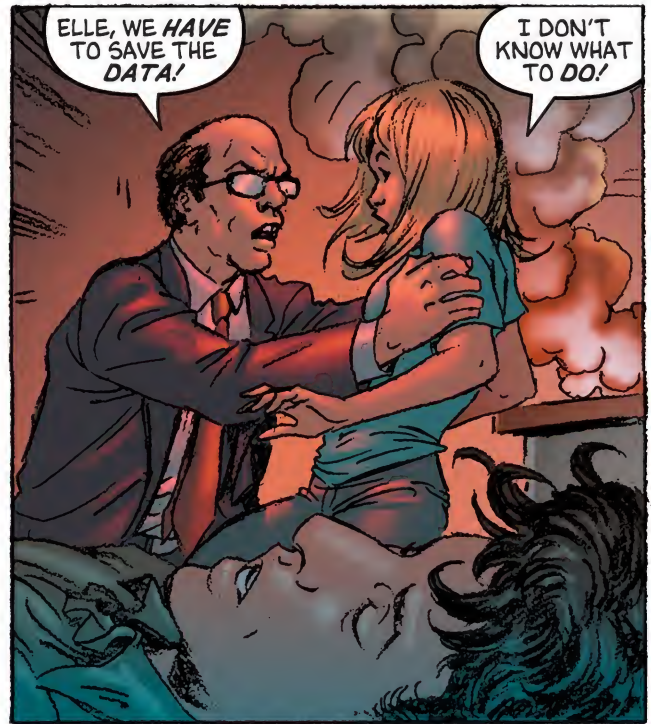
THE VIRUSES?

DESTROYED.



PUT OUT THAT FIRE!

HE'S NOT BREATHING!

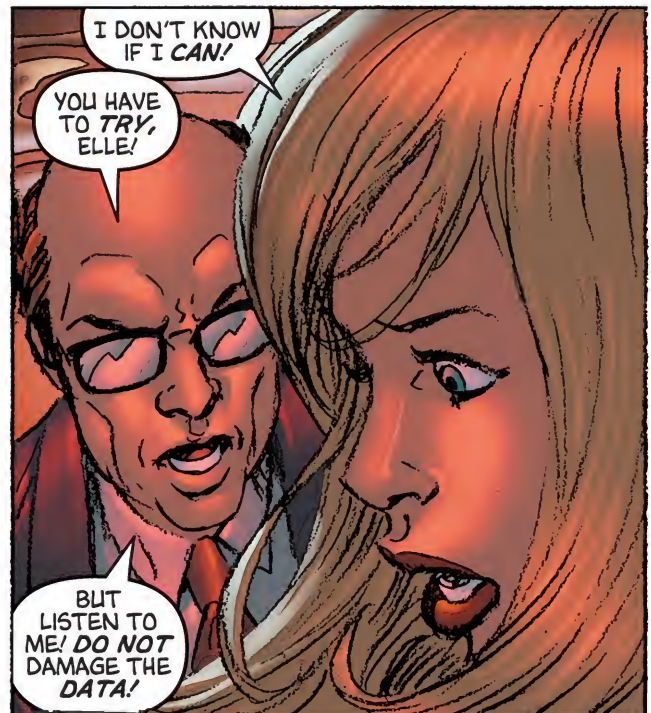


ELLE, WE HAVE TO SAVE THE DATA!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!



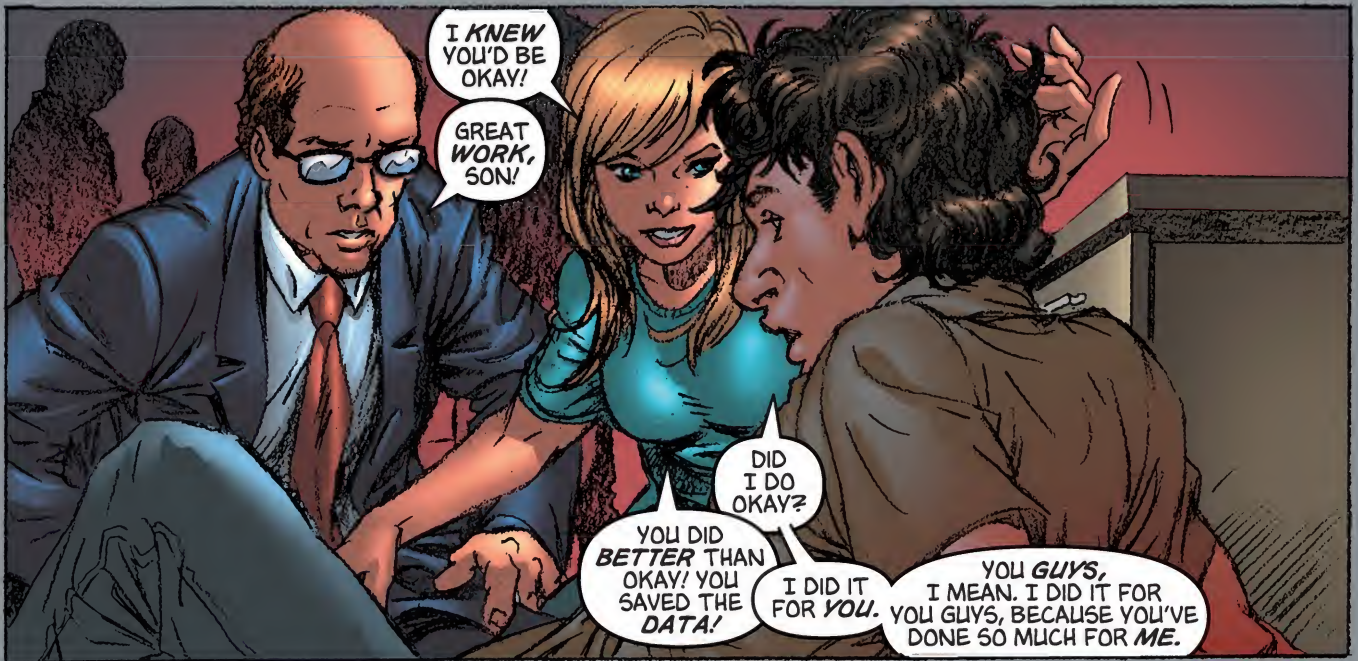
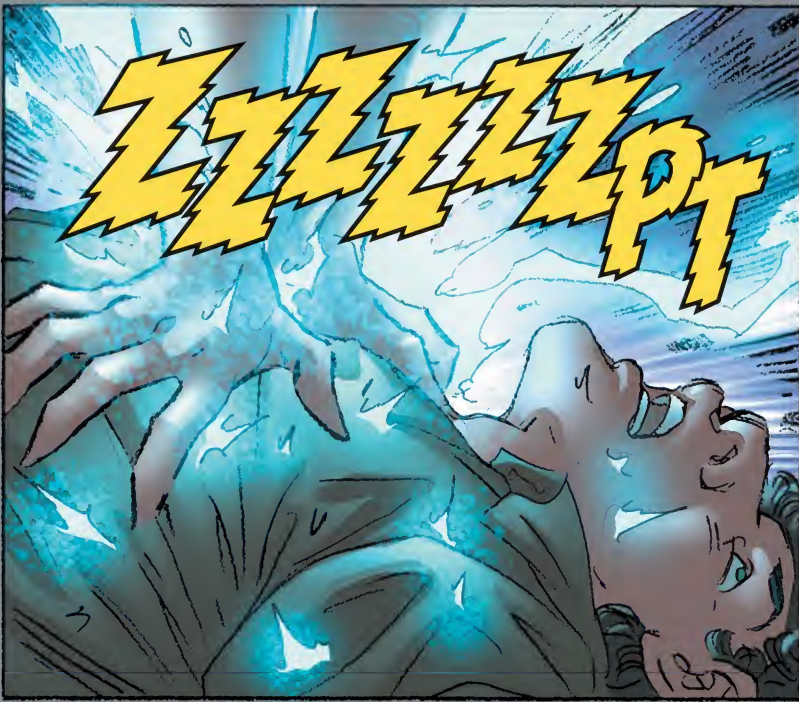
ELLE, YOU HAVE TO RESTART HIS HEART!

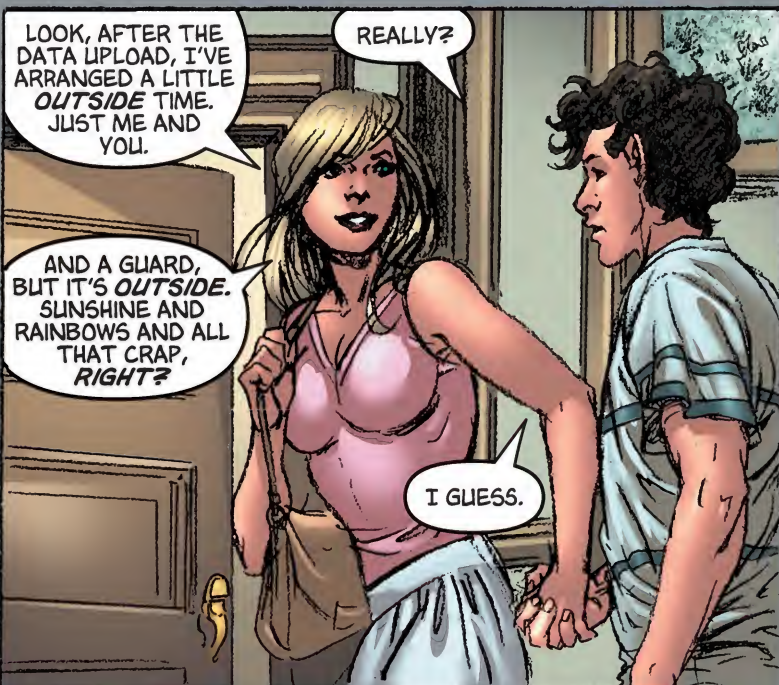
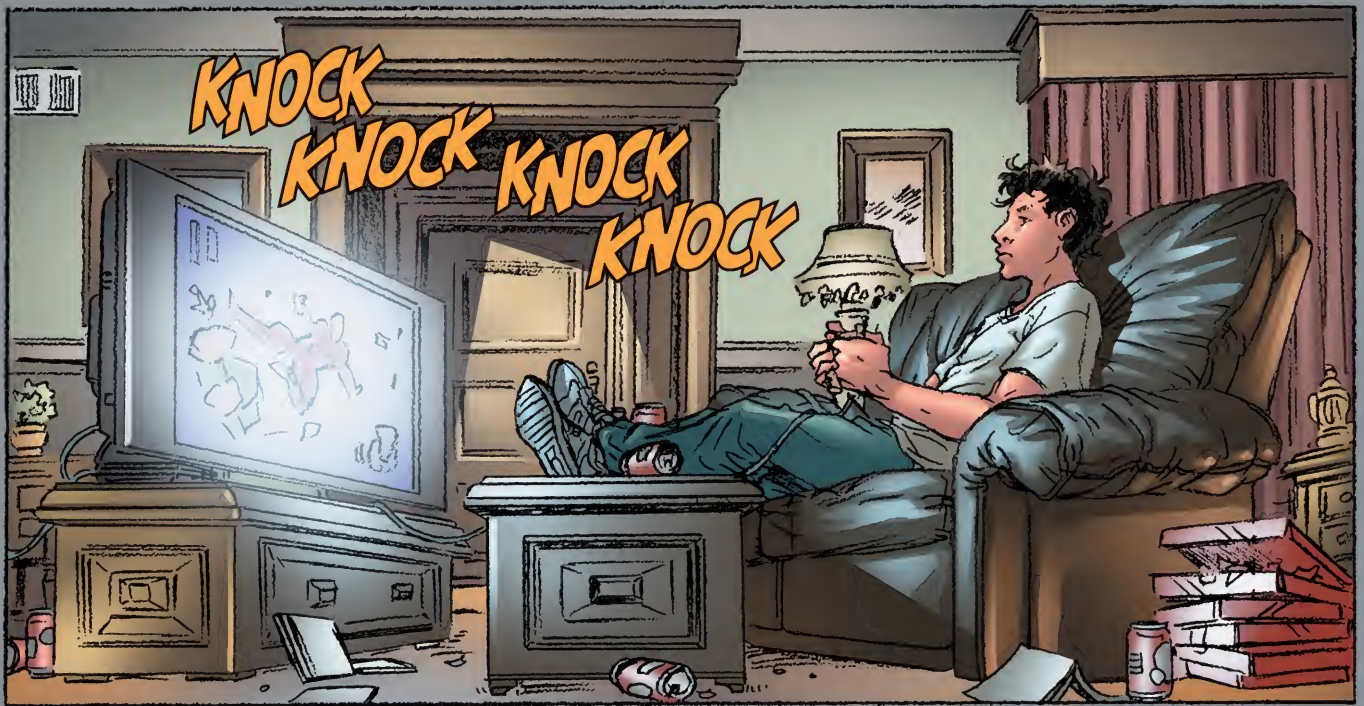


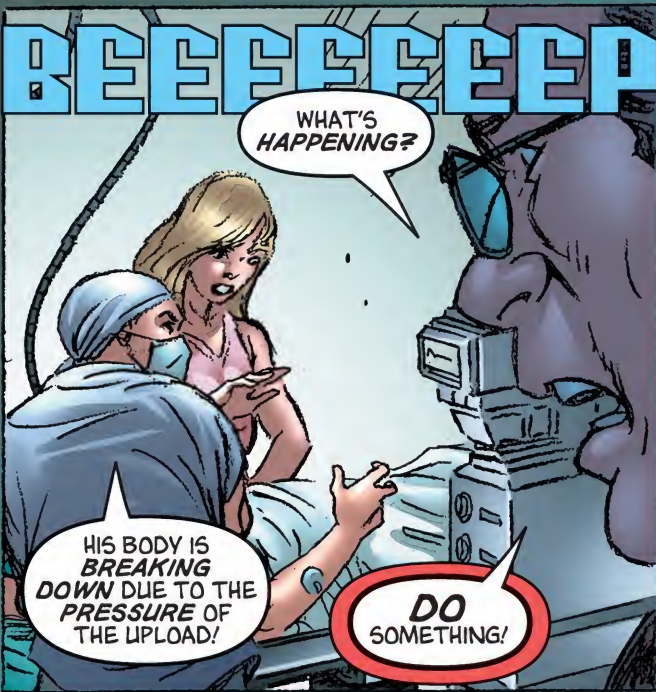
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN!

YOU HAVE TO TRY, ELLE!

BUT LISTEN TO ME! DO NOT DAMAGE THE DATA!









HEROES

CHAPTER 71 HISTORY OF A SECRET

Abu Aswan has the power to levitate and move extremely heavy objects. As his power becomes stronger, he begins to wonder where his powers originated. Sanjog Iyer visits him in a dream and leads him back in time to the construction of the Egyptian pyramids, built by Abu's ancestors.

The HISTORY of a SECRET

JOHN O'HARA and
CARRI WAGNER *Story*

MICAH GUNNELL
Art

MARK ROSLAN *Digital Inks* JOHN STARR *Colors*
COMICRAFT *Lettering* An ASPEN M.I.T. *Production*

FOR YEARS, ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND SCHOLARS HAVE WONDERED HOW THE EGYPTIANS BUILT THE PYRAMIDS.

IT IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE TAKEN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MEN OVER 20 YEARS TO BUILD THE GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA.



EGYPT, PRESENT DAY.

THEY *MUST* HAVE KNOWN AN *EASIER* WAY TO BUILD THE PYRAMIDS.

I THINK I HAVE AN *IDEA*.

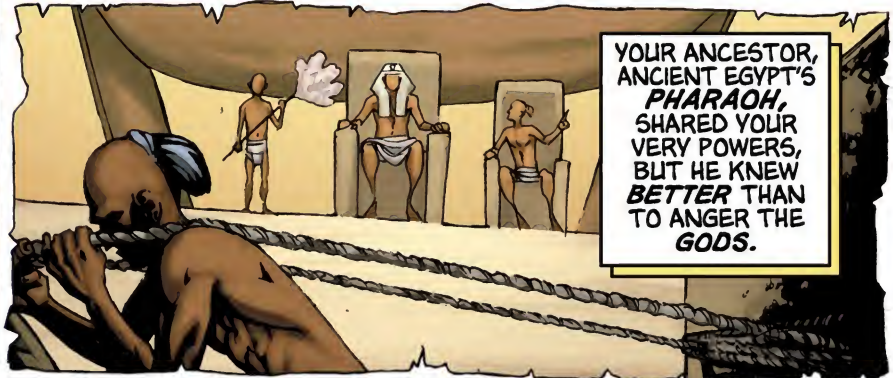
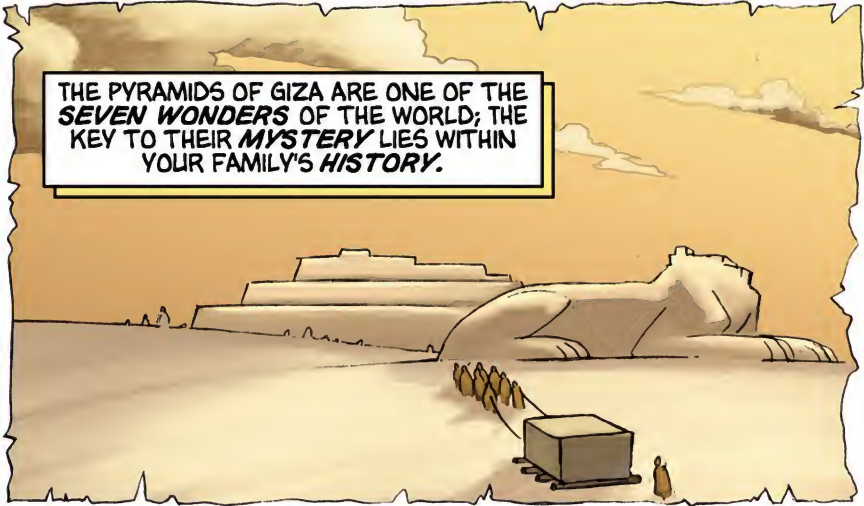
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! GET HIM!

H-HOW IS HE DOING THAT?!

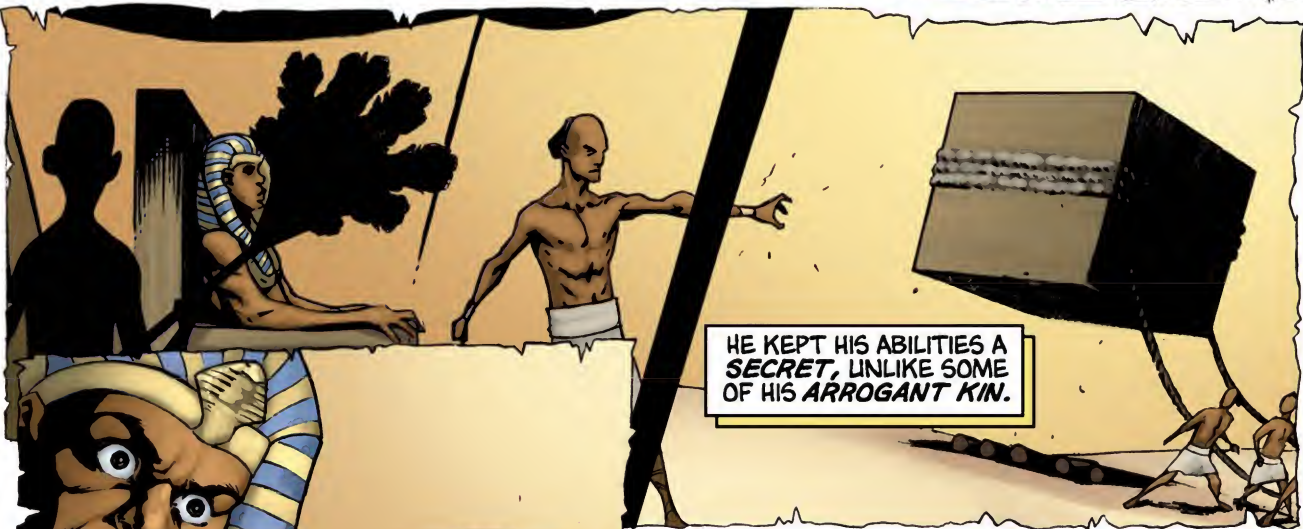




THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA ARE ONE OF THE **SEVEN WONDERS** OF THE WORLD; THE KEY TO THEIR **MYSTERY** LIES WITHIN YOUR FAMILY'S **HISTORY**.



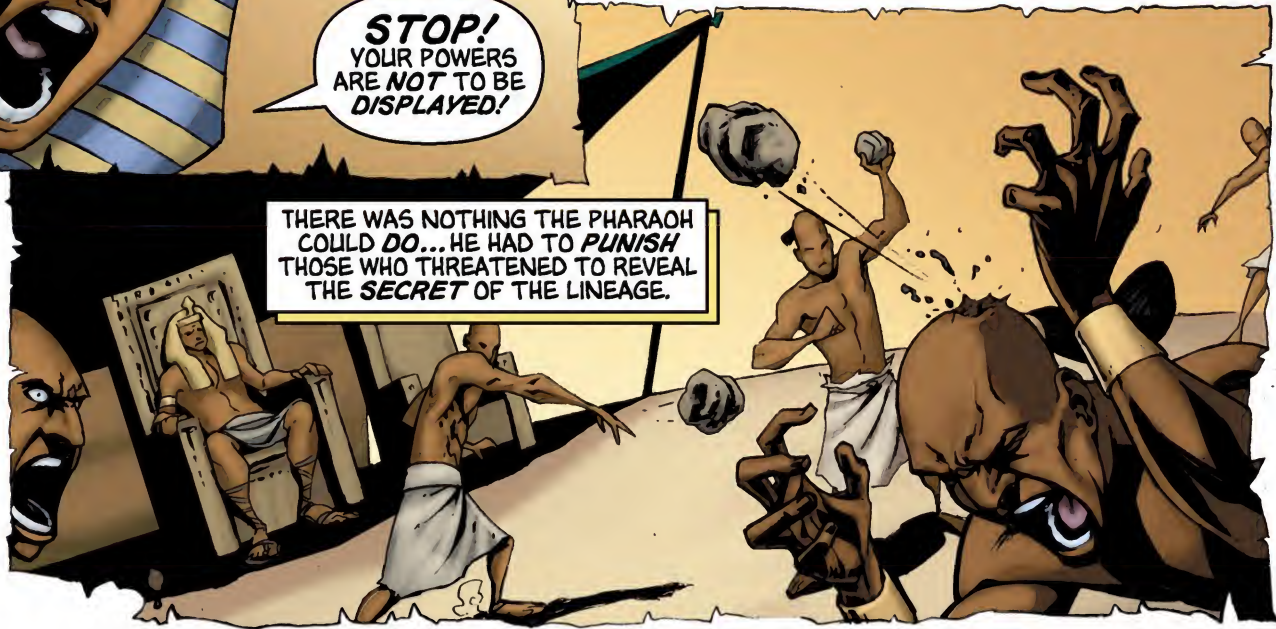
YOUR ANCESTOR, ANCIENT EGYPT'S **PHARAOH**, SHARED YOUR VERY POWERS, BUT HE KNEW **BETTER** THAN TO ANGER THE **GODS**.



HE KEPT HIS ABILITIES A **SECRET**, UNLIKE SOME OF HIS **ARROGANT KIN**.



STOP!
YOUR POWERS ARE **NOT** TO BE **DISPLAYED!**



THERE WAS NOTHING THE PHARAOH COULD **DO**... HE HAD TO **PUNISH** THOSE WHO THREATENED TO REVEAL THE **SECRET** OF THE LINEAGE.



I DON'T WANT THIS. I WANT TO LIVE IN A PLACE WHERE I WON'T BE PUNISHED FOR WHO I AM.

THERE'S NO ESCAPING THE LIFE YOU ARE MEANT TO LIVE.

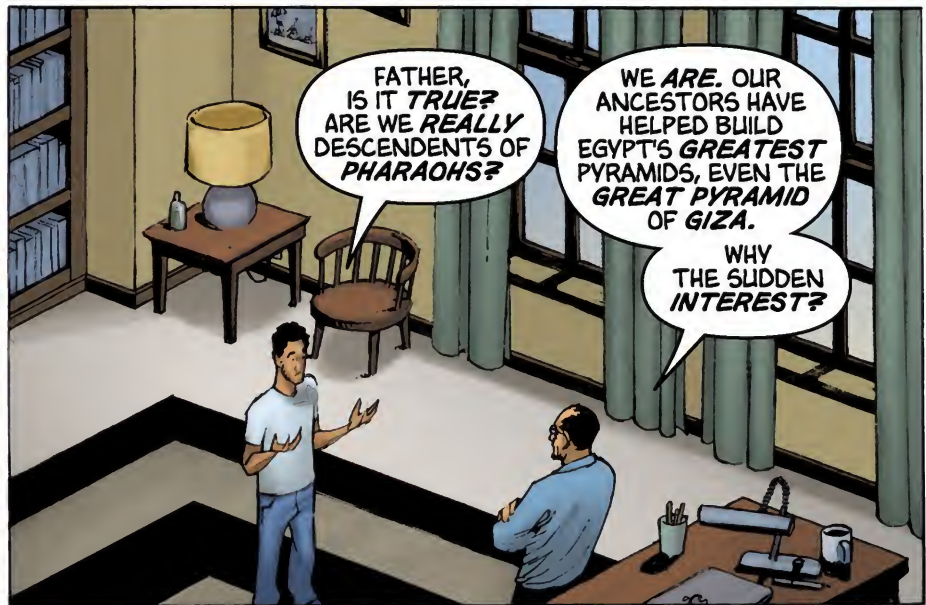
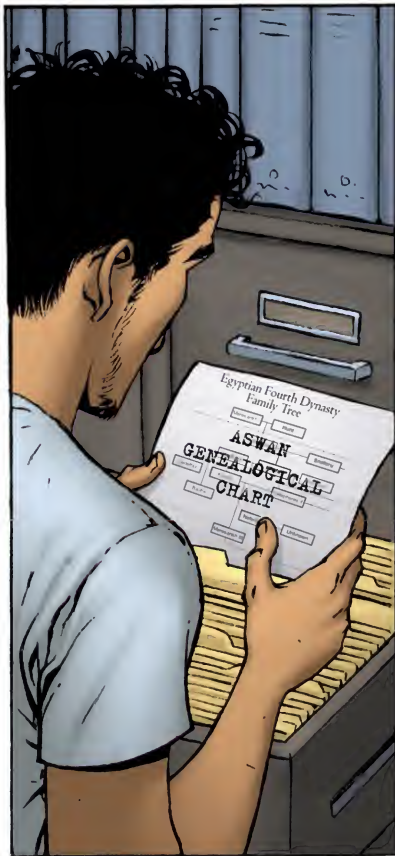
EVEN IF IT'S A LIE?

"LEARN FROM YOUR ANCESTORS AND RESPECT THE SECRET THAT HAS REMAINED THROUGHOUT GENERATIONS."



EGYPT IS MY DESTINY.

The End



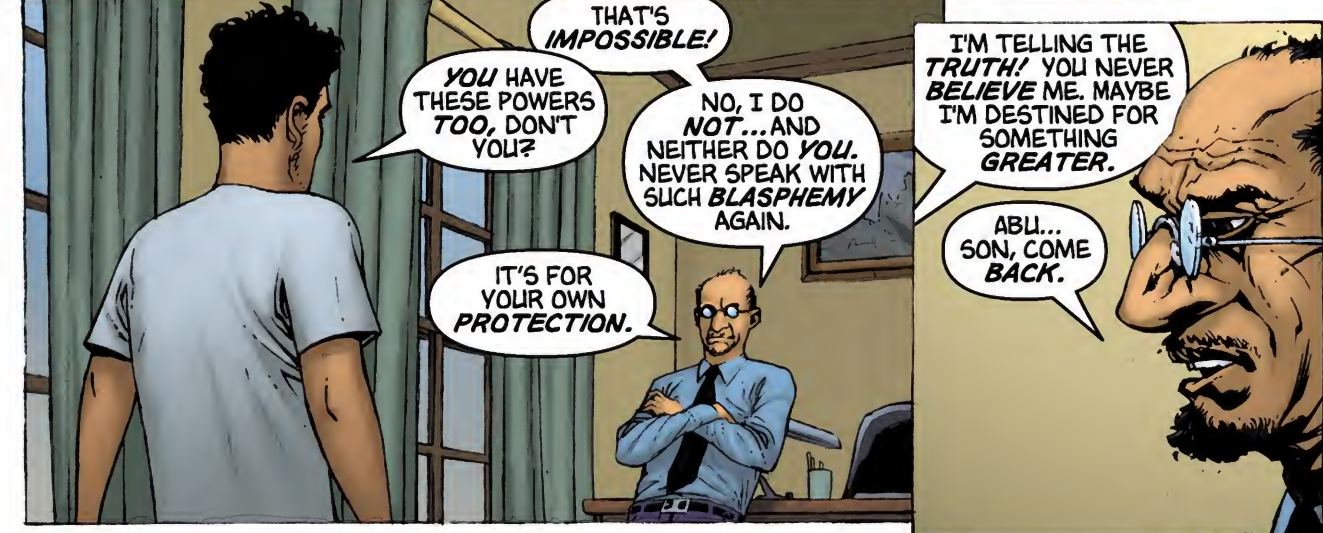
FATHER, IS IT **TRUE?** ARE WE **REALLY** DESCENDENTS OF **PHARAOHS?**

WE **ARE**. OUR ANCESTORS HAVE HELPED BUILD EGYPT'S **GREATEST** PYRAMIDS, EVEN THE **GREAT PYRAMID** OF GIZA.

WHY THE **SUDDEN INTEREST?**



SOMETHING **STRANGE** HAS BEEN HAPPENING TO ME. I CAN LIFT A **ONE TON BOULDER** ALL BY MYSELF.



THAT'S **IMPOSSIBLE!**

YOU HAVE THESE POWERS **TOO**, DON'T YOU?

NO, I DO **NOT...** AND **NEITHER** DO YOU. NEVER SPEAK WITH SUCH **BLASPHEMY** AGAIN.

IT'S FOR YOUR OWN **PROTECTION.**

I'M TELLING THE **TRUTH!** YOU NEVER **BELIEVE** ME. MAYBE I'M DESTINED FOR SOMETHING **GREATER.**

ABU... SON, COME **BACK.**



HEROES

CHAPTER 72 PAST EXPERIENCE

When a new assignment disappoints, Kimiko Nakamura reaches back to her past to learn a lesson from one of the world's greatest heroes.

PAST EXPERIENCE

J.T. KRUL *Script* JASON BADOWER *Art*
COMICRAFT *Lettering* An ASPEN M.L.T. *Production*

TO CALL *IKEBANA* THE ACT OF ARRANGING FLOWERS WOULD BE TO LIKEN POETRY TO A GROCERY LIST.

IN TRUTH, IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE SOUL, A MEANS BY WHICH TO CONVEY THE WONDROUS BEAUTY AND SPIRITUAL ESSENCE OF NATURE.

THROUGH ITS DESIGN, ONE COULD SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THE HEART OF THE VIEWER WHO SAW IT.

BUT, NONE OF THAT MATTERED.

NOT TO MY FATHER. HE CARED NOTHING FOR THE BEAUTY IN THIS WORLD.

INSTEAD, HE LIVED IN THE PAST... RECOUNTING THE GLORY OF WARRIORS AND THEIR VICTORIES ON ANCIENT BATTLEFIELDS.

...LED BY **TAKEZO KENSEI**, THE GREATEST HERO IN ALL OF JAPAN, THE SAMURAI ARMY DEFEATED ONI OF TOTTORI.

IT WAS AFTER THIS FIERCE BATTLE THAT TWO SAMURAI BEGAN FELDING OVER THE SWORD OF ONI. EACH CLAIMED TO HAVE KILLED THIRTY-SEVEN WARRIORS OF THE ENEMY ARMY; AND THEREFORE, EACH CLAIMED THE BLADE AS A PRIZE FOR THEIR VALOR.



TAKEZO STEPPED BETWEEN THE TWO SAMURAI, FROWNING UPON THEIR SELFISH BEHAVIOR. "YOU MAY WEAR THE UNIFORM OF THE SAMURAI, BUT YOU BICKER LIKE CHILDREN," KENSEI SAID.

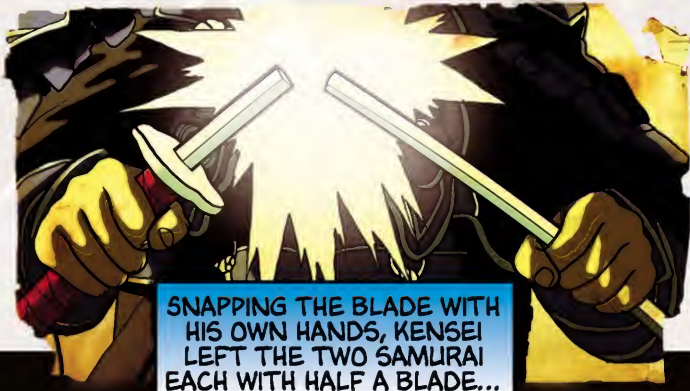


"TRUE, EACH OF YOU FOUGHT VALIANTLY AGAINST THIS LATEST ENEMY TO JAPAN, BUT IN FIGHTING NOW WITH ONE ANOTHER, YOU DISHONOR YOURSELVES AND YOUR STANDING. USING YOUR LOGIC, THE SWORD SHOULD BELONG TO ME FOR I SLEW TWICE AS MANY ENEMIES AS EITHER OF YOU."



"BUT DOES THE SAMURAI WHO KILLS A HUNDRED ON THE BATTLEFIELD DESERVE MORE HONOR...MORE GLORY THAN THE BOY WHO SLAYS BUT ONE?"

"IT IS ONLY TOGETHER THAT WE WIN. THERE IS NO INDIVIDUAL. THERE IS ONLY JAPAN."



SNAPPING THE BLADE WITH HIS OWN HANDS, KENSEI LEFT THE TWO SAMURAI EACH WITH HALF A BLADE...



...A REMINDER FOR THE REST OF THEIR DAYS OF HOW THEIR PRIDE HAD DAMAGED THEIR HONOR.



YOU SEE, HIRO, HOW THE GREAT TAKEZO KENSEI ALWAYS PUSHED FORWARD, NEVER SETTLING FOR FAILURE...IN HIMSELF OR IN OTHERS.

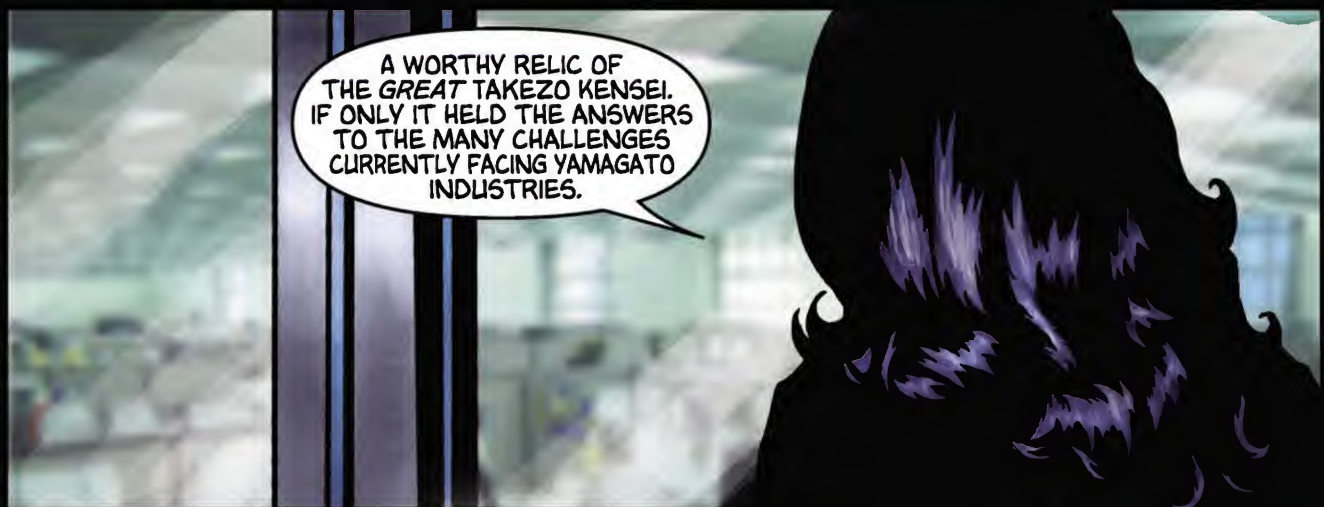




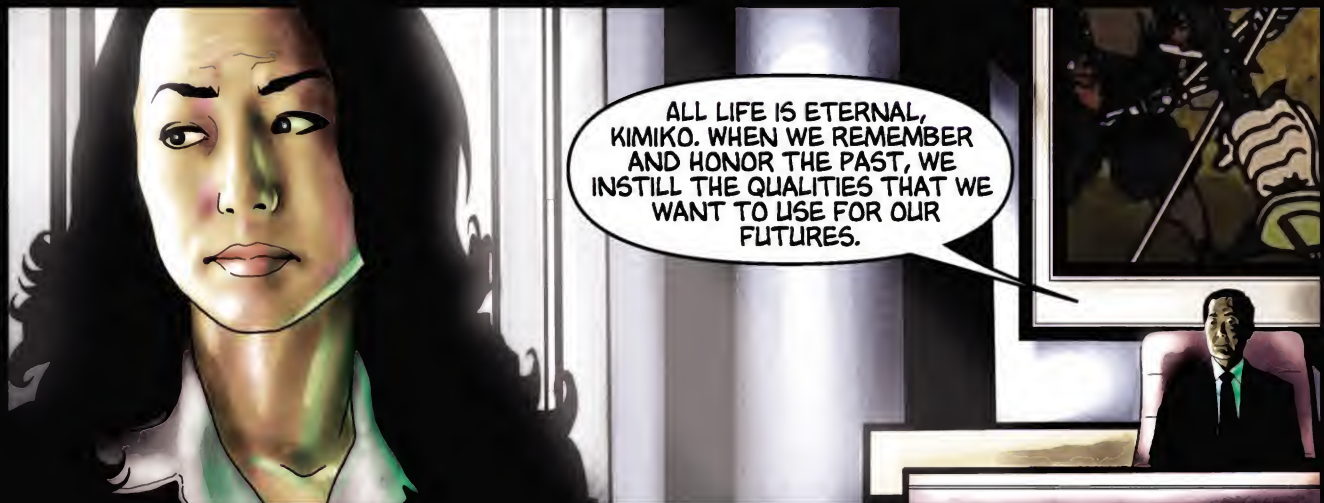
IMPRESSIVE,
ISN'T IT?




SUCH AN
IMPORTANT
PIECE...




A WORTHY RELIC OF
THE GREAT TAKEZO KENSEI.
IF ONLY IT HELD THE ANSWERS
TO THE MANY CHALLENGES
CURRENTLY FACING YAMAGATO
INDUSTRIES.




ALL LIFE IS ETERNAL,
KIMIKO. WHEN WE REMEMBER
AND HONOR THE PAST, WE
INSTILL THE QUALITIES THAT WE
WANT TO USE FOR OUR
FUTURES.



WHEN HE DIED, I WAS DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE LOSS.



BUT, I ALSO BELIEVED MY FATHER WAS HAPPIER NOW THAT HE COULD STAND BESIDE HIS HERO IN THE AFTERLIFE.



KIMIKO, PLEASE FORGIVE THE TIMING OF MY ADDRESS TO DISCUSS YAMAGATO INDUSTRIES, BUT THE BUSINESS WORLD STOPS FOR NO MAN... EVEN ONE AS GREAT AS YOUR FATHER.

KNOWING MY FATHER, *KIN*, I AM SURE HE WOULD ADMIRE YOUR DEDICATION TO HIS LEGACY. I KNOW WE HAVE MUCH WORK AHEAD OF US, AND I AM READY TO TAKE THE MANTLE.



ACTUALLY, KIMIKO, IT IS HIS LEGACY PROJECT THAT NOW SUFFERS FROM A LACK OF LEADERSHIP...



...THE YAMAGATO FELLOWSHIP.

MY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR MY ROLE AT YAMAGATO INDUSTRIES WERE CLEAR -- TO TAKE OVER THE POSITION THAT HE HELD...NOT TO BABYSIT HIS HOBBY.

YAMAGATO

YAMAGATO FELLOWSHIP

BUT THAT IS PRECISELY WHY THOSE WITHIN THE COMPANY HAVE SENT ME HERE -- TO DISTRACT MY ATTENTION WITH MY FATHER'S OBSESSION WHILE THEY WORK TO USURP MY RIGHTFUL PLACE IN HIS CHAIR.

By looking into the past, it is our hope that we will be better equipped to identify and inspire the heroes walking among us today.

WE ARE SO PLEASED TO HAVE YOU HERE WITH US, MS. NAKAMURA.

NOT AS PLEASED AS I AM. THANK YOU FOR RECEIVING ME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

TELL ME, DAI. WHAT TIME DOES THE FACILITY OPEN?

UM... WE ARE OPEN.

I SEE.

WITHOUT MY FATHER PRAISING YOU, YOUR MEMORY APPEARS TO FALL ON DEAF EARS, KENSEI. IT SEEMS NOBODY ELSE IS INTERESTED IN YOU OR YOUR ADVENTURES.

PERHAPS IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO FIND A NEW HOME IN OBSCURITY.

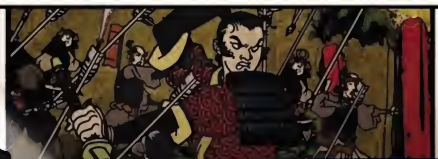
I HAD NO INTENTION OF BEING EXILED FROM MY POSITION. I NEEDED TO BE STRONG... FOR MY FATHER AND FOR THE COMPANY ITSELF.

KIMIKO NAKAMURA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HOSIDEN SENT THIS NEW PDA IN APPRECIATION FOR OUR CONTINUED SERVICE OF THEIR NEEDS. BEING THE PRIMARY EXECUTIVE FOR THEIR ACCOUNT, NATURALLY IT SHOULD GO TO ME.

HAI, JIRO IS THE PRIMARY EXECUTIVE; HOWEVER, THE GIFT WAS ADDRESSED TO ME FOR MY EFFORTS IN OUR LATEST MATTER. MS. NAKAMURA, SURELY IT WAS HOSIDEN'S DESIRE FOR ME TO RECEIVE THE GIFT.

AS I LOOKED UPON THE FIGURE THAT I HAD DESPISED SINCE CHILDHOOD, I FINALLY REALIZED WHAT MY FATHER HAD MEANT ALL THOSE YEARS.

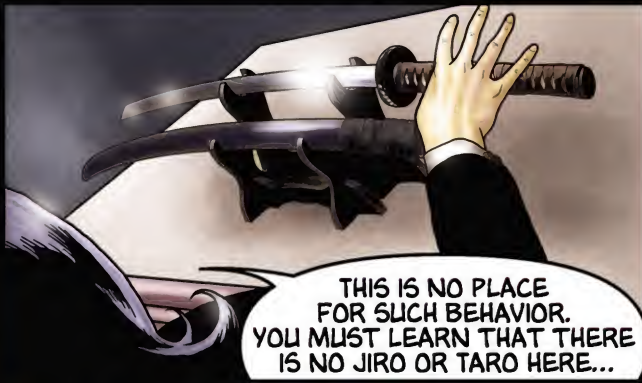


THE PAST...IT COULD SHOW ME THE WAY.

YES, JIRO AND TARO, YOU BOTH SERVE HOSIDEN WELL, BUT DO YOU NOT RELY UPON EACH OTHER? AND THE RESEARCHERS, ACCOUNTANTS, AND ADMINISTRATORS? AS WELL AS THE BOARD MEMBERS OF YAMAGATO INDUSTRIES THEMSELVES?



YOU BOTH SADDEN ME WITH YOUR PETTINESS, AND YOU SHAME YOURSELVES.



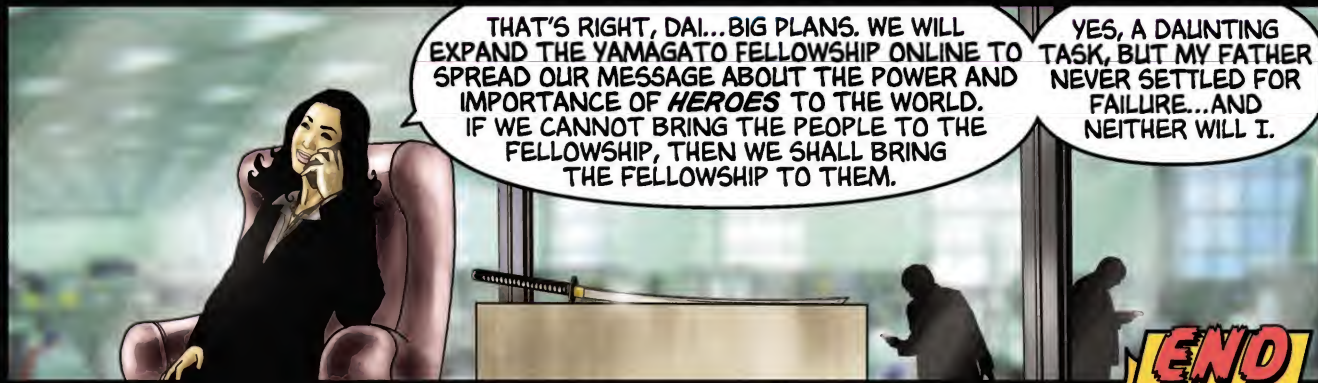
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR SUCH BEHAVIOR. YOU MUST LEARN THAT THERE IS NO JIRO OR TARO HERE...



THERE IS ONLY YAMAGATO!

THAT'S RIGHT, DAI...BIG PLANS. WE WILL EXPAND THE YAMAGATO FELLOWSHIP ONLINE TO SPREAD OUR MESSAGE ABOUT THE POWER AND IMPORTANCE OF **HEROES** TO THE WORLD. IF WE CANNOT BRING THE PEOPLE TO THE FELLOWSHIP, THEN WE SHALL BRING THE FELLOWSHIP TO THEM.

YES, A DAUNTING TASK, BUT MY FATHER NEVER SETTLED FOR FAILURE...AND NEITHER WILL I.



END



HEROES

CHAPTER 73

WAR BUDDIES COMING HOME

Part 7

After returning from Vietnam, Linderman travels the country doing odd jobs and searching for a place to call home. When Linderman meets Linda Tavera, he remembers what it feels like to fall in love after years of being away at war. Linderman's fear of entrusting others is realized when he finds out that Linda has been waiting for him.

EARLY 70s

THE WAR'S FINALLY OVER...



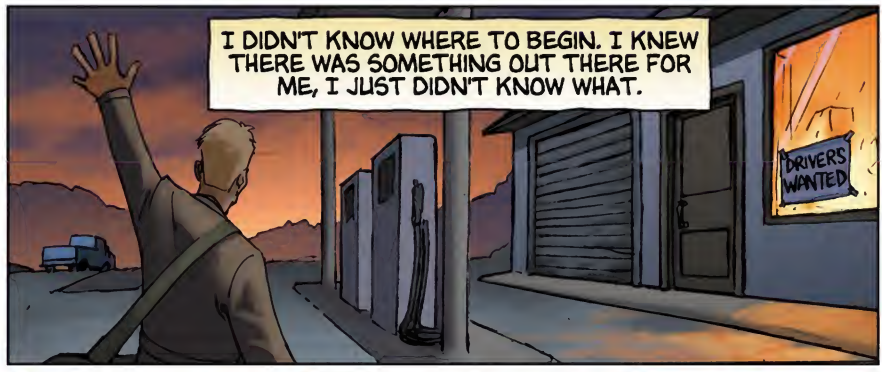
AT LEAST, FOR ME.



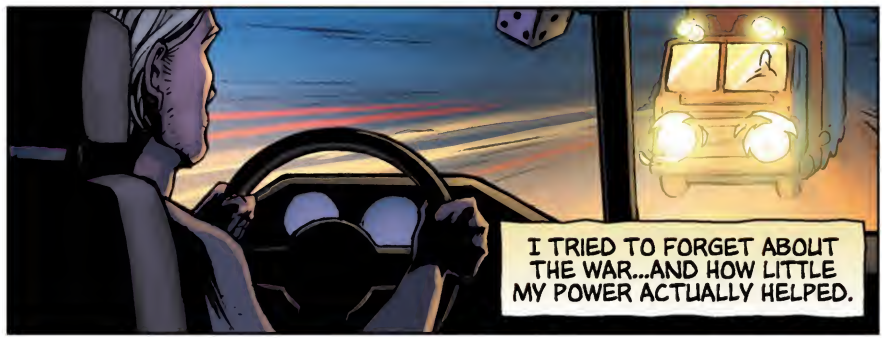
SOLDIERS WERE STARTING TO GO HOME... BUT NOT ME. I HAD NO HOME.



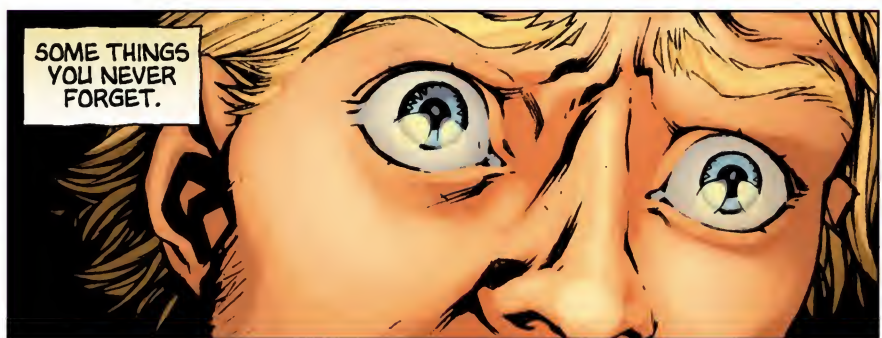
I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING OUT THERE FOR ME, I JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHAT.



I TRIED TO FORGET ABOUT THE WAR...AND HOW LITTLE MY POWER ACTUALLY HELPED.



SOME THINGS YOU NEVER FORGET.



WAR BUDDIES

Part 7

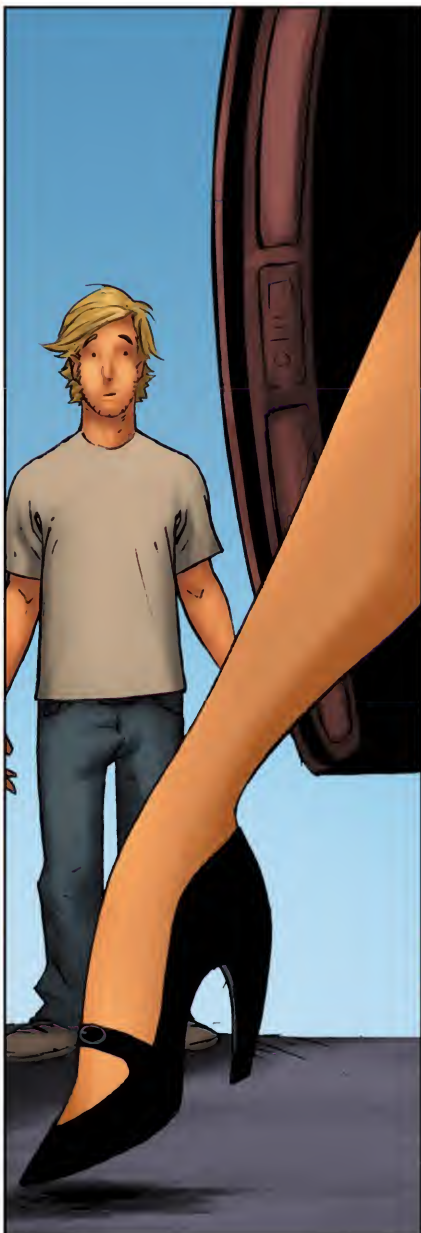
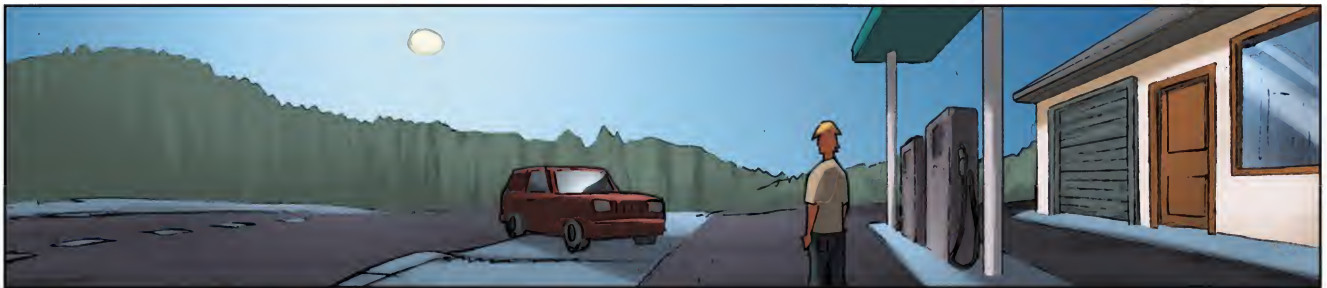
COMING HOME

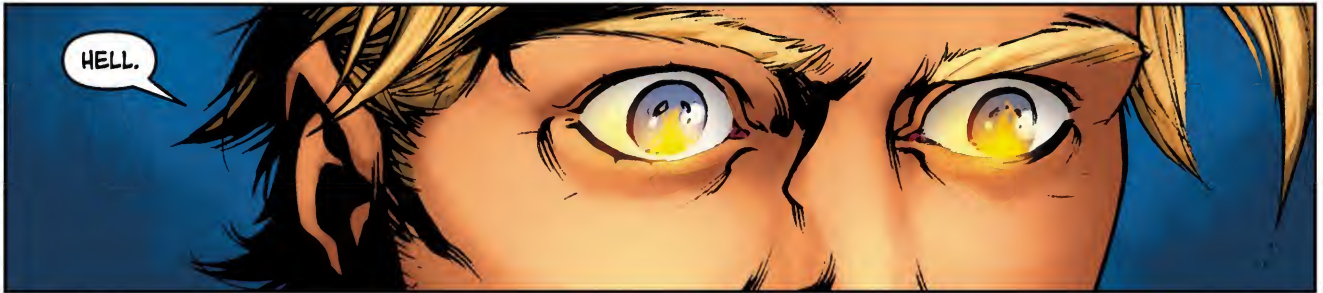
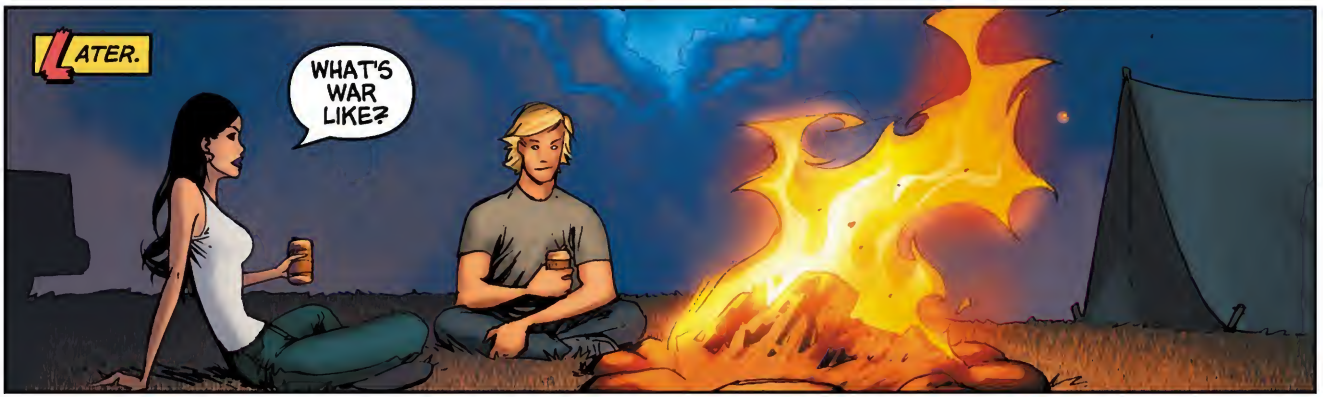
JOHN O'HARA ✪ MICAH GUNNELL ✪ MARK ROSLAN
Writer Pencils Digital Inks

JOHN STARR ✪ COMICRAFT
Colors Lettering

An ASPEN MLT INC. Production









BEAUTIFUL MORNING FOR A HIKE.

READ MY MIND.



LINDA MADE ME FEEL GOOD AGAIN. THAT I COULD TRUST AGAIN.



LITTLE DID I KNOW IT WAS HUNTING SEASON.

OH GOD!



I WAS TIRED OF CONCEALING WHO I REALLY WAS.

I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.



THAT'S AMAZING!

JUST LIKE SHE SAID. AFTER I STEAL HIS POWER...NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO STOP ME.



THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.

THERE'S NO NEED. I ALREADY KNOW.



I HAVE A SECRET TOO.



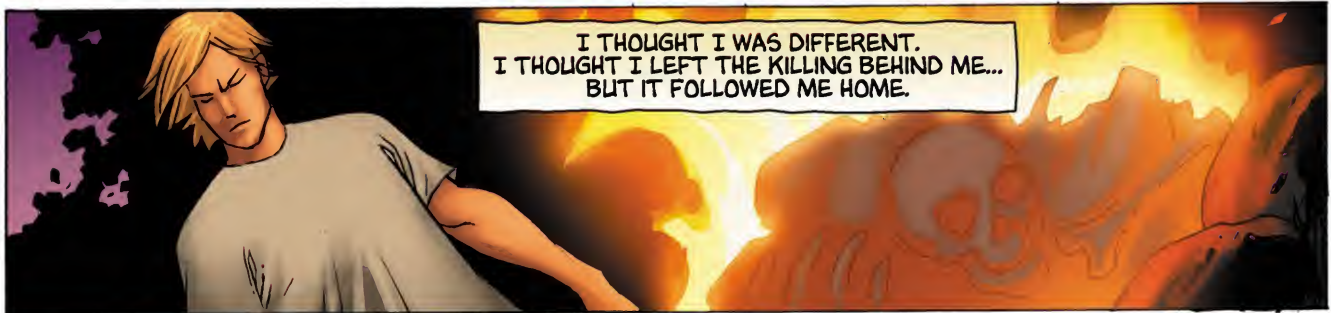
IT'S MINE NOW!



THWACK



I THOUGHT SHE WAS DIFFERENT.



I THOUGHT I WAS DIFFERENT. I THOUGHT I LEFT THE KILLING BEHIND ME... BUT IT FOLLOWED ME HOME.



WHERE YOU HEADING?

AS FAR AS YOU'LL TAKE ME.



Arthur Petrelli
New York City
NY



HEROES

CHAPTER 74

BLINDSIDED

Noah Bennet has executed numerous missions on behalf of the mysterious "company." His foresight and quick thinking have at times made him either an invaluable employee or a dangerous enemy to the enigmatic organization. But what toll have these missions taken upon Noah himself?



KTLOJDVRHWSGK 20 FT 12
4.05

20 10 FHIODKNTHRG 10 FT 13
3.05

...D. K.
N. T. H.
R. G.

PERFECT!
YOU GOT THEM
ALL RIGHT!



HOW DID YOU
DO THAT?

I DUNNO.
I HAVE WHAT
YOUR GRANDPA
USED TO CALL
AN **EAGLE-
EYE.**

BEEP BEEP BEEP

AND WHAT YOUR
MOTHER CALLS A
**RIDICULOUSLY
DEMANDING JOB**
FOR A PAPER
SALESMAN.

I GOTTA
GO, KIDDO.
LET'S GET YOUR
LOLLIPOP.



THERE'S SOMETHING
GREAT ABOUT HAVING THE
HAITIAN AS A PARTNER
FOR THESE LONG TRIPS.



AT LEAST YOU DON'T HAVE
TO MAKE **CONVERSATION.**

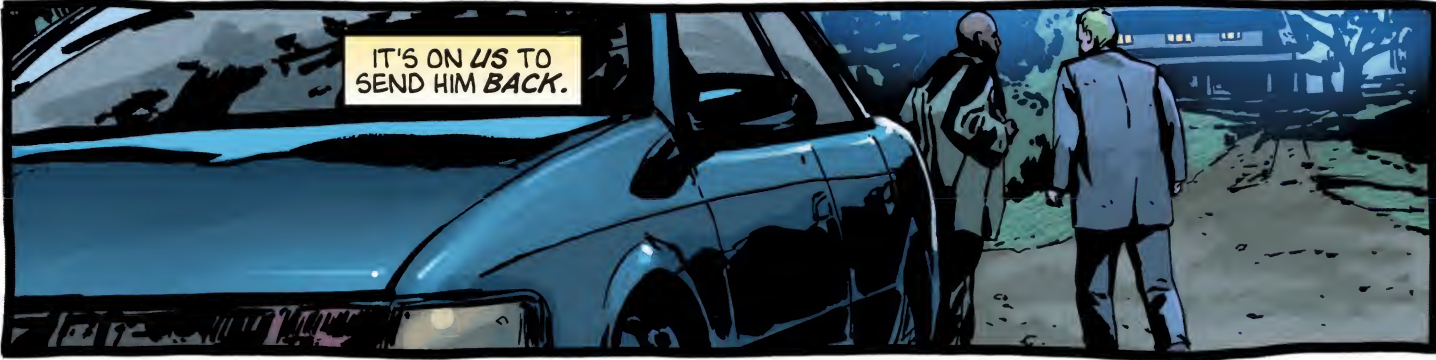
I JUST NEEDED TO
DOWNLOAD OUR **MISSION,**
WHICH WAS SIMPLE:



HOWARD GRIGSBY MANIFESTED
TWO MONTHS AGO. HIS **ABILITIES** ARE
STILL A MYSTERY TO THE COMPANY.

ALL WE KNOW IS THAT SINCE HE **RECEIVED**
THEM, HE HAS GONE ON A CONSIDERABLE
KILLING SPREE, ATTACHED TO
DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR.

HE BELIEVES HE WAS
SENT BY **GOD.**



IT'S ON **US** TO
SEND HIM **BACK.**



PLEASE, LET US GO.

I AM HIS LIGHT.

I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING!

GRIGSBY KIDNAPPED THE BUTLERS, A FAMILY OF FOUR, AND FOUND REFUGE IN THIS ABANDONED PLANTATION.



TIMES LIKE THIS, I *THANK* THAT EAGLE EYE.



I CAN MAKE IT AROUND HERE, BUT *BARELY*.



THUMP



CRAP...

HE WHO TRANSGRESSES MY *WORD* SHALL BE *BLINDED*...



FOR I AM THE
LIGHT OF THE
WORLD!

BLINDSIDED

JOE
POKASKI
Story

MICHAEL
GAYDOS
Pencils

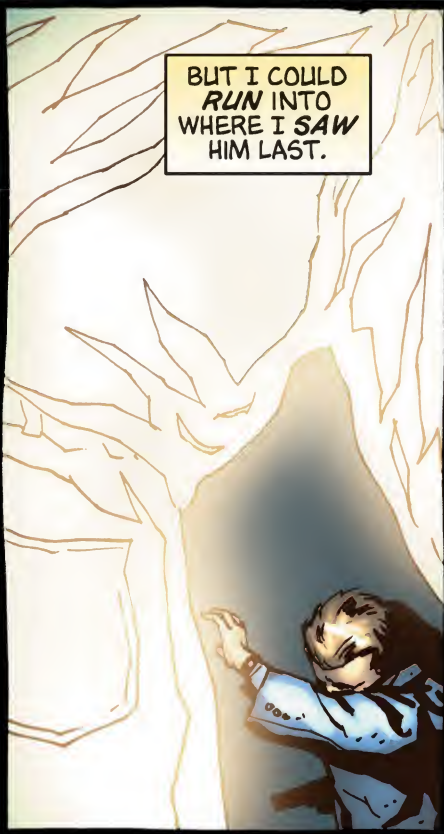
EDGAR AT STUDIO F
Colors
NANCI QUESADA

COMICRAFT
Lettering
Editor

I COULDN'T
SEE A *THING*.



BUT I COULD
RUN INTO
WHERE I SAW
HIM LAST.



HELP
US.

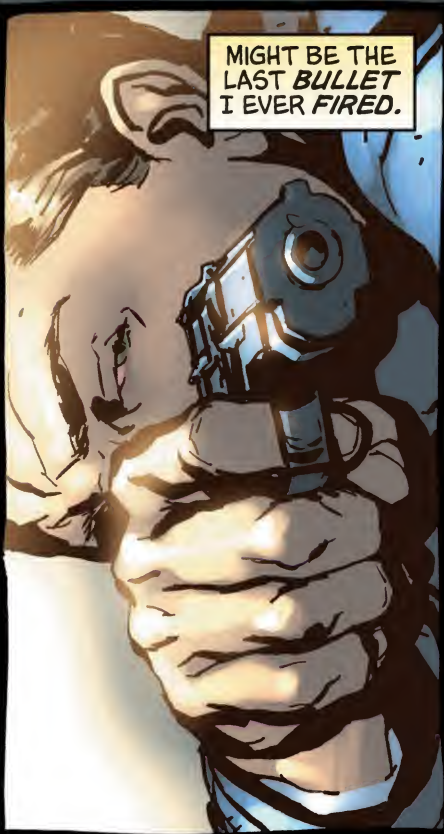
PLEASE!



I NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING
NOW. IF I *DIDN'T*, THIS
FAMILY. THE HAITIAN. AND
I... WOULDN'T *MAKE* IT.



MIGHT BE THE
LAST *BULLET*
I EVER *FIRE*D.



LET'S SEE IF I CAN PUT
MY *MONEY* WHERE MY
EYE CHART IS.



MISTER BENNET?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU'RE WITH FRIENDS. YOUR PARTNER BROUGHT YOU IN.

WHAT HAPPENED TO GRIGSBY?

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, HE'S CURSING YOUR NAME FROM A LEVEL-FIVE DETENTION CELL.

I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR YOU...

AND THE FAMILY? THE BUTLERS?

THEY'RE SAFE. NOT A SCRATCH ON THEM.

I KNOW.

I CAN'T...

WELCOME TO ODESSA, TX
We're so glad to see you!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EAGLE EYE?

SOMETIMES A GUY GETS OLD.

A LITTLE. BUT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO PUTTING THEM ON.

ARE YOU SAD?

WHY?

SO I CAN SEE YOU AGAIN.

BEST. DAD. EVER.

GO AHEAD. WHICHEVER ONES YOU LIKE...

The End



HEROES

CHAPTER 75 A LESSON IN ELECTRICITY

The only major writing on the mystery of Ben Franklin's famous kite flying experiment comes from John Priestly's account, published fifteen years afterwards. Franklin made many major discoveries in his lifetime, but some details he chose to keep to himself.

A LESSON IN ELECTRICITY

From the journal of Joseph Priestley.
November 8, 1767.

DAVID WOHL  MICAH GUNNELL  MARK ROSLAN
Writer Pencils Digital Inks
JOHN STARR  COMICRAFT
Colors Lettering
An ASPEN MLT INC. Production

TING
TING

It is with great apprehension
that I write this entry...

NNNGGHHH...
BENJAMIN...

TING
TING
TING

...but after several
years of secrecy
and consternation,
I feel the truth
must be explored.

BENJAMIN?
THOSE INFERNAL
BELLS OF YOURS
ARE RINGING
AGAIN! BENZ?!

The truth about a colleague
and dear friend of mine...

BEN! YOUR
BELLS!

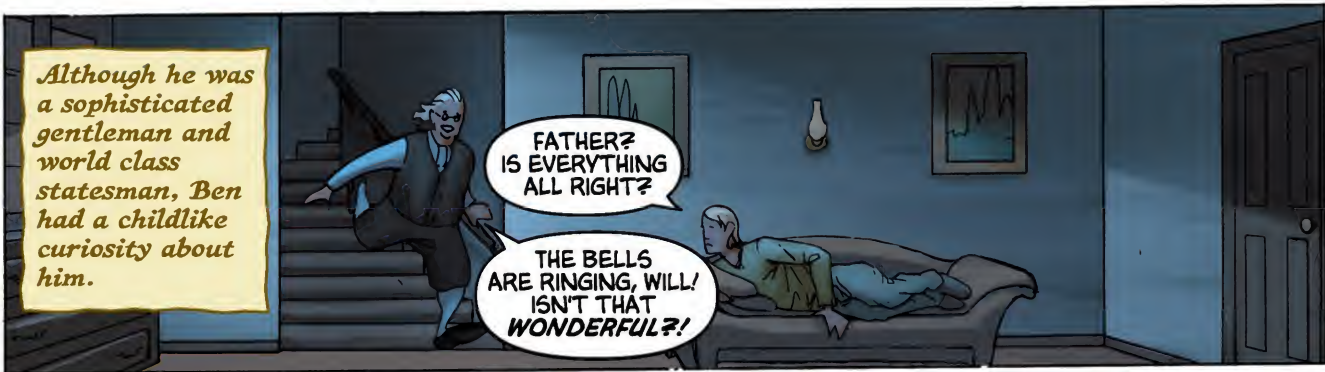
...Benjamin
Franklin...

HNH?
I--WHU--MY--
MY BELLS? WHAT
DO YOU MEAN MY--

...And his famous
experiment that
changed our
understanding of
electricity
forever.

CAN'T YOU
INVENT A QUIETER
WAY TO CONDUCT
YOUR EXPER--

MY
BELLS!



Although he was a sophisticated gentleman and world class statesman, Ben had a childlike curiosity about him.

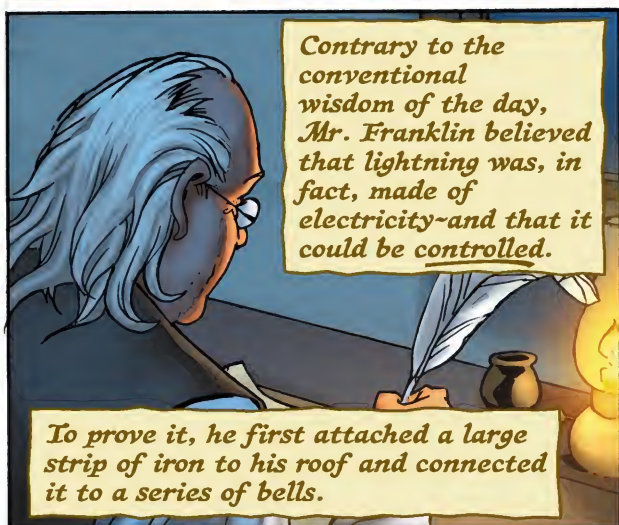
FATHER?
IS EVERYTHING
ALL RIGHT?

THE BELLS
ARE RINGING, WILL!
ISN'T THAT
WONDERFUL?!



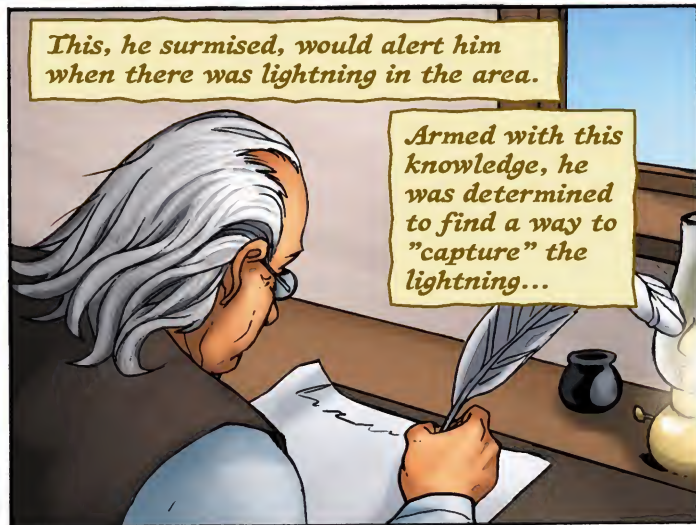
He relished every small discovery, and, once he was interested, needed to thoroughly understand anything and everything about a myriad of topics...

...including, in this case, lightning.



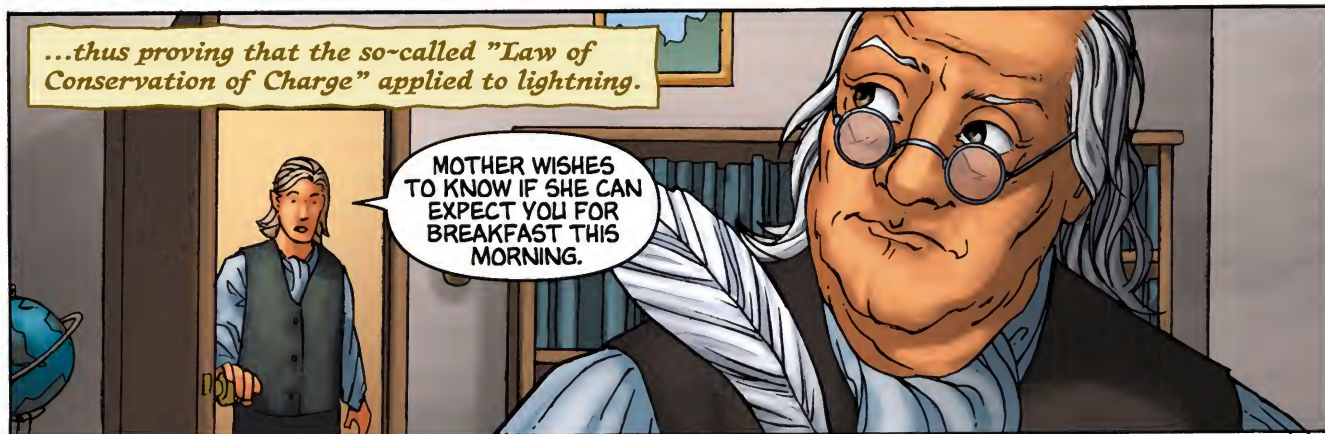
Contrary to the conventional wisdom of the day, Mr. Franklin believed that lightning was, in fact, made of electricity-and that it could be controlled.

To prove it, he first attached a large strip of iron to his roof and connected it to a series of bells.



This, he surmised, would alert him when there was lightning in the area.

Armed with this knowledge, he was determined to find a way to "capture" the lightning...



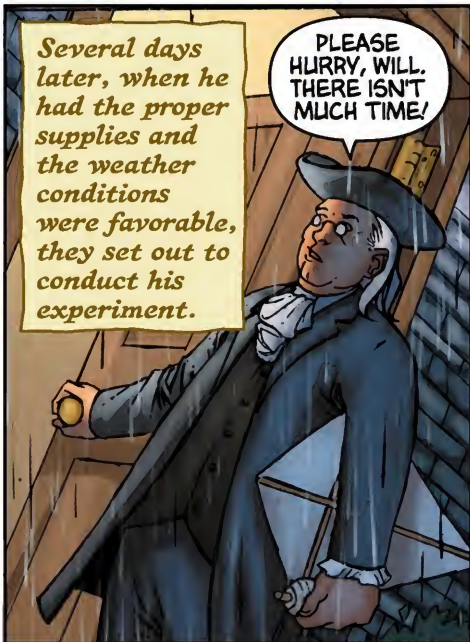
...thus proving that the so-called "Law of Conservation of Charge" applied to lightning.

MOTHER WISHES TO KNOW IF SHE CAN EXPECT YOU FOR BREAKFAST THIS MORNING.



But to do so, he was going to need some help.

AH, WILLIAM. I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE. THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT...



Several days later, when he had the proper supplies and the weather conditions were favorable, they set out to conduct his experiment.

PLEASE HURRY, WILL THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!



GOOD AFTERNOON, MISTER FRANKLIN. I TRUST WHATEVER ACTIVITY YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR THIS AFTERNOON WILL BE QUIETER THAN THOSE BELLS THAT KEEP MY WIFE AND I UP FOR HALF THE NIGHT.

MY APOLOGIES, MR. BRADY. THEY SHAN'T BOTHER YOU MUCH LONGER. MY WORK IS NEARLY COMPLETE.



When Deborah asked where they were going on such a stormy day, Ben replied, simply...

...to fly a kite.



HMPH. WORK, INDEED.

WHAT A KOOK!

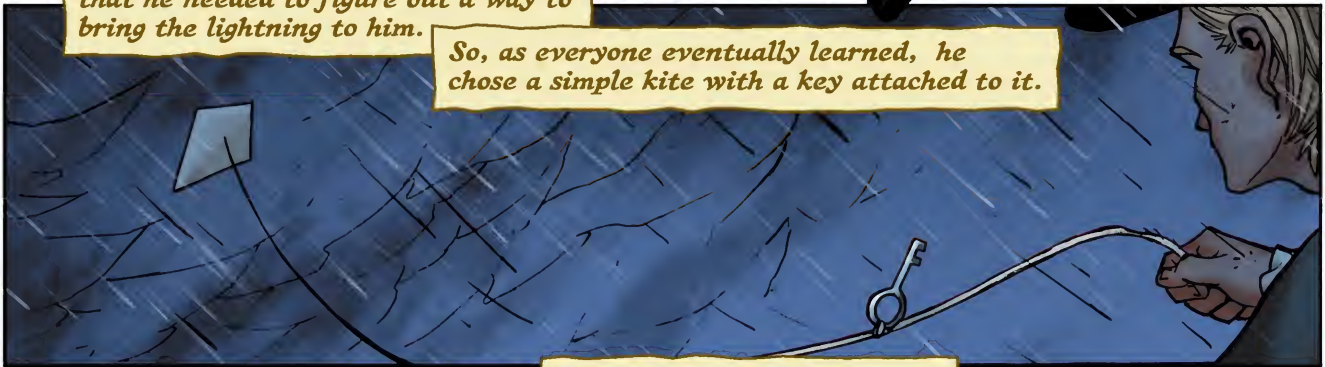


THIS IS A PERFECT SPOT.

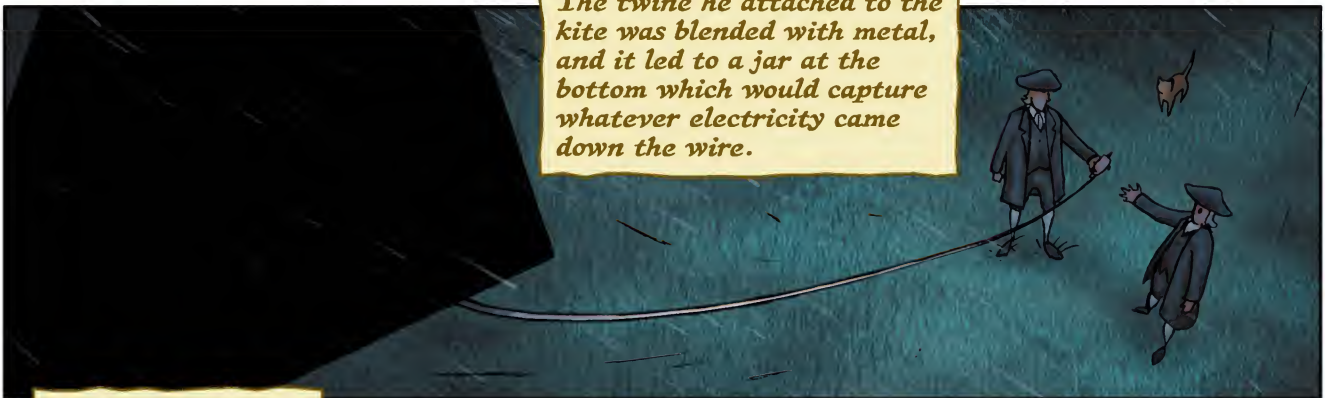


To prove his thesis, Franklin realized that he needed to figure out a way to bring the lightning to him.

So, as everyone eventually learned, he chose a simple kite with a key attached to it.



The twine he attached to the kite was blended with metal, and it led to a jar at the bottom which would capture whatever electricity came down the wire.



To prevent electrocution, he attached a dry silk string to the metal cord, effectively insulating him from the charge of the key.



SHOULD WE TRY TO FIND A DIFFERENT LOCATION, FATHER?



I DON'T THINK THAT WILL BE NECESSARY, WILLIAM. IT LOOKS LIKE THE SKY IS CLEARING EVERYWH--



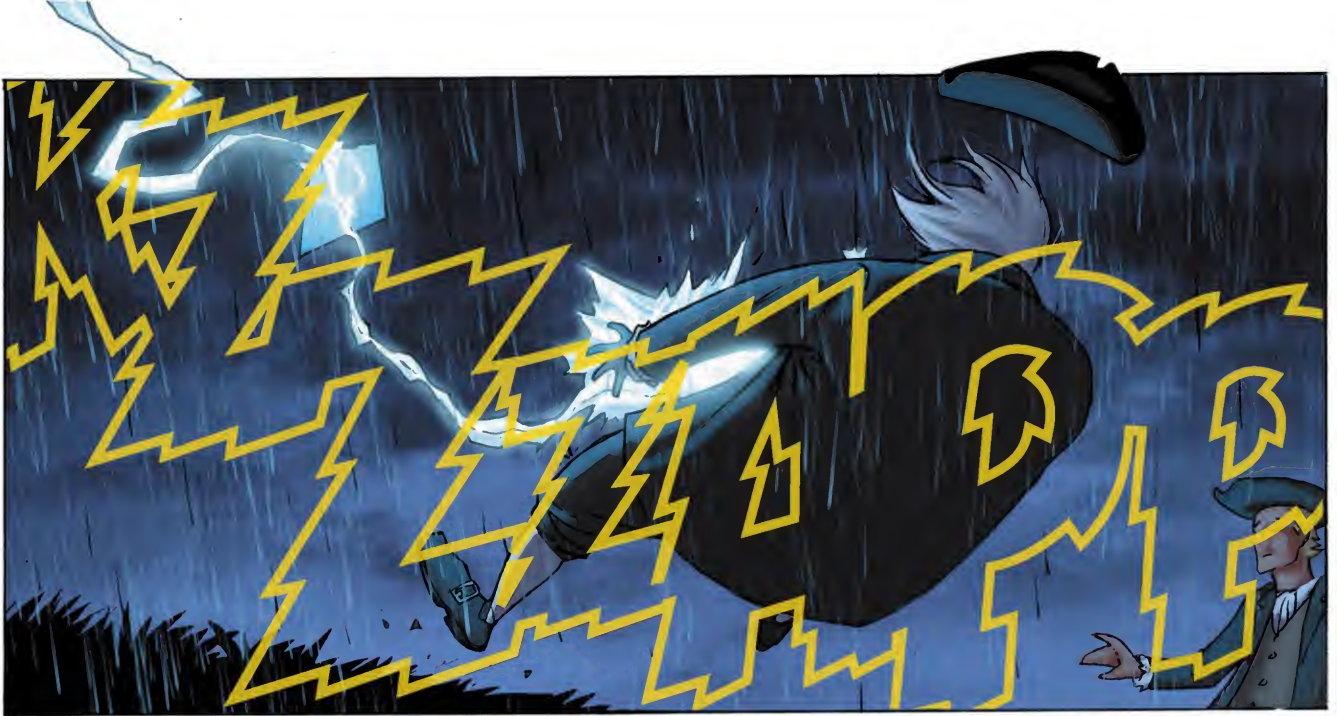
FATHER?

Unfortunately there was one part of the process that he failed to consider.



DO YOU FEEL SOMETHING--?

He never proposed the question, what if the dry string...was wet?



Although he conducted his experiment in 1752, it wasn't until 15 years later that he made the public aware of it, in a letter to me.

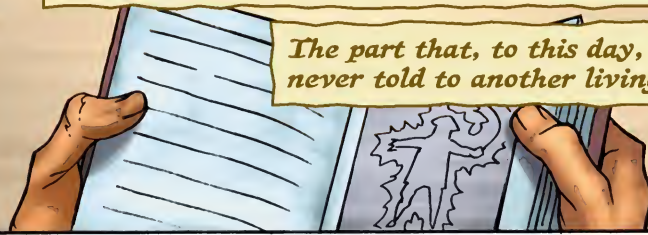
People often ask me why it took so long for him to tell the world of his great discovery.



I say that it was because he didn't want anyone trying to duplicate such a dangerous experiment, so he kept it to himself until tools became available to make it safer.

But the truth of the matter lies in the part of the story that he made me swear to never repeat.

The part that, to this day, I have never told to another living soul.



That Benjamin, himself, somehow absorbed the charge.

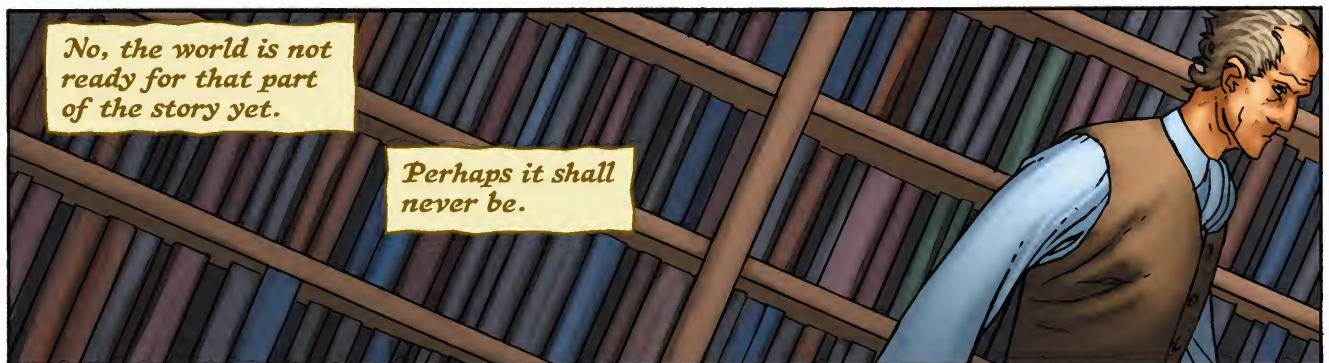
Enough electricity to kill a man.



And he walked away unscathed.

No, the world is not ready for that part of the story yet.

Perhaps it shall never be.





HEROES

CHAPTER 76

PIECES of ME

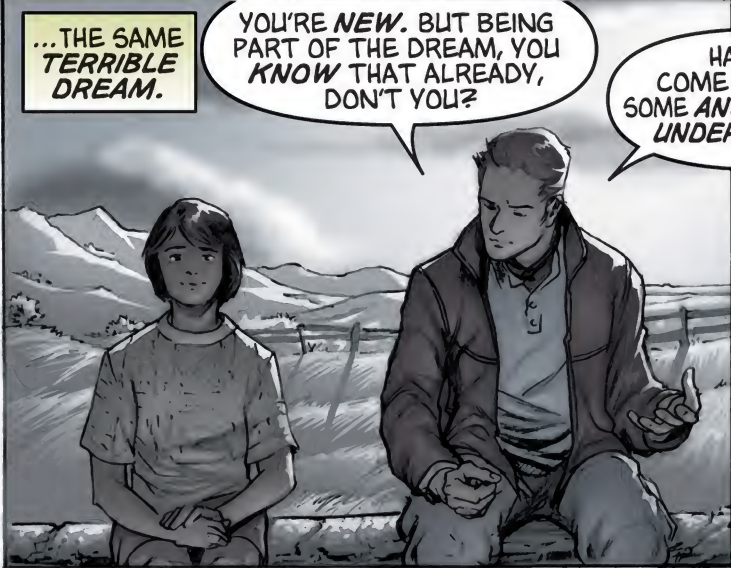
Ryan Covington's recurring dream consists of a series of bizarre images, but each night it ends the same way...with his own death. Is it possible his dream is trying to tell him something? Maybe a visit from Sanjog Iyer will help clear things up.

PIECES OF ME

J.T. KRUL *Story* ROBERT ATKINS *Art*
EDGAR @ STUDIO F COMICRAFT NANCI QUESADA
Colors *Lettering* *Editor*



IF DREAMS ARE A WAY FOR THE SUBCONSCIOUS TO SEND MESSAGES TO THE BRAIN, THEN MINE IS JUST PLAIN NAGGING, BECAUSE I HAVE THE SAME DREAM ALMOST EVERY NIGHT...



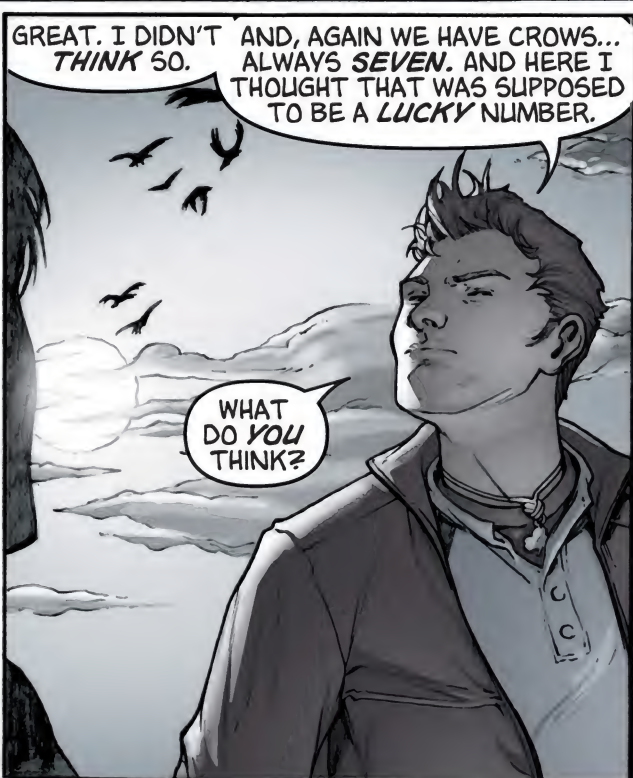
...THE SAME TERRIBLE DREAM.

YOU'RE NEW. BUT BEING PART OF THE DREAM, YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY, DON'T YOU?

HAVE YOU COME TO GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS? SOME UNDERSTANDING?



ONLY YOU HAVE THE ANSWER. LIFE IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD, IT IS NOTHING TO BE FEARED.



GREAT. I DIDN'T THINK SO.

AND, AGAIN WE HAVE CROWS... ALWAYS SEVEN. AND HERE I THOUGHT THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A LUCKY NUMBER.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



OH, SO IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE THAT, HUH?



LIKE I SAID, I'VE HAD THIS DREAM BEFORE. BUT STILL, EACH TIME IT FEELS *NEW*.



HEARING MY OWN NAME *ALWAYS* STARTLES ME.

RYAN...



IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM THE TOP OF THE STAIRS.

RYAN...



RYAN...

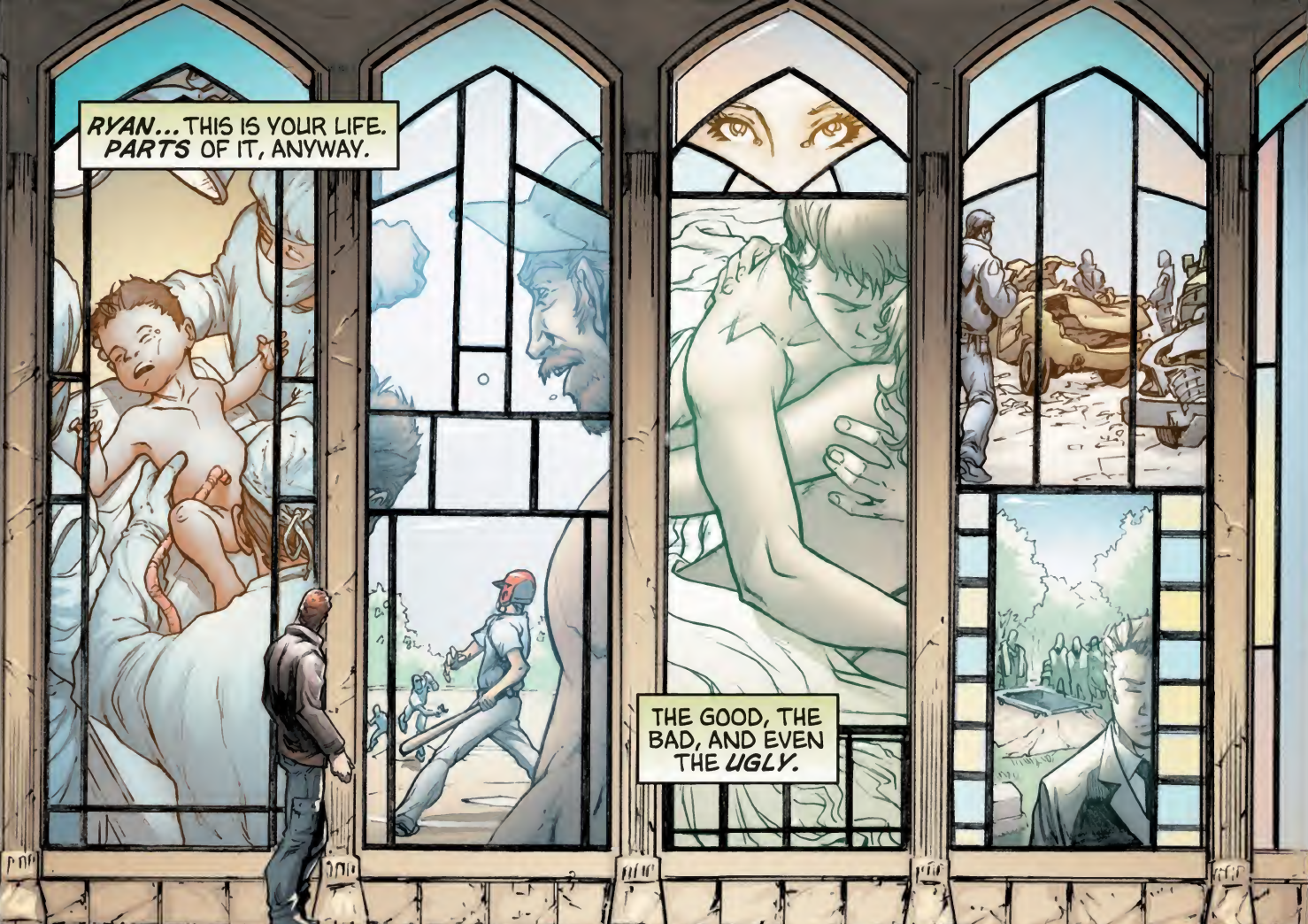


BUT THE HIGHER I CLIMB, THE *SOFTER* THE VOICE BECOMES.

RYAN...



AND THEN...IT'S GONE.



RYAN... THIS IS YOUR LIFE.
PARTS OF IT, ANYWAY.

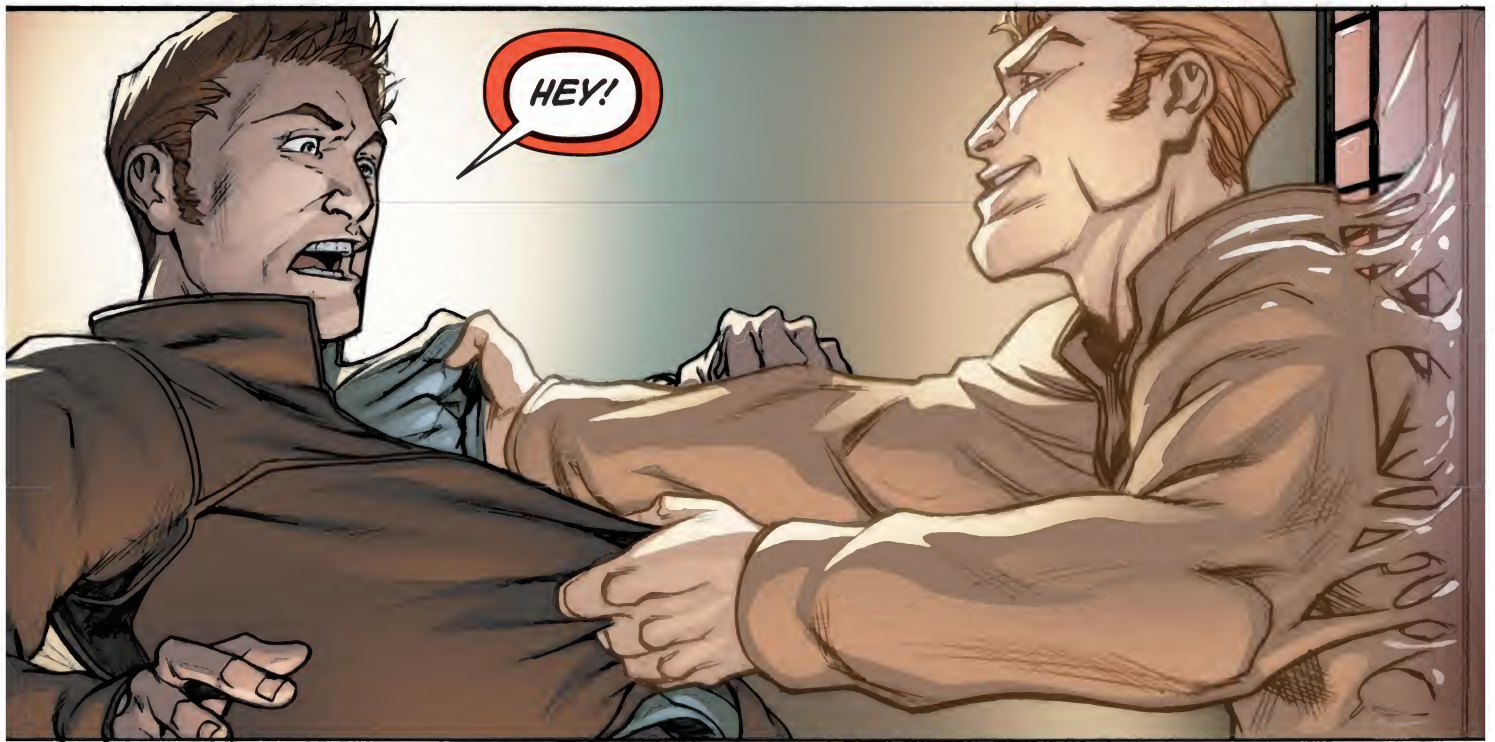
THE GOOD, THE
BAD, AND EVEN
THE UGLY.

THE IMAGES MAKE MY BLOOD BOIL. I WANT
TO DRIVE MY FIST THROUGH THE GLASS...
ERASE IT FROM MY MEMORY. IT HURTS
TOO MUCH TO REMEMBER HOW SHE LEFT...
HOW SHE WAS *TAKEN* FROM ME.



THIS TIME, I
UNDERSTAND.



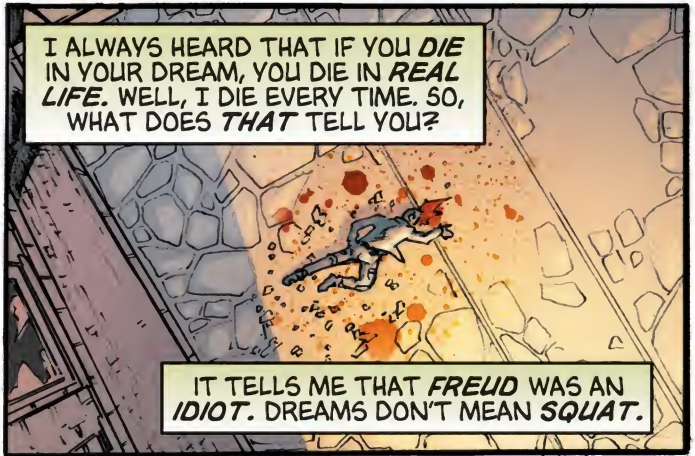




AHHHHH!



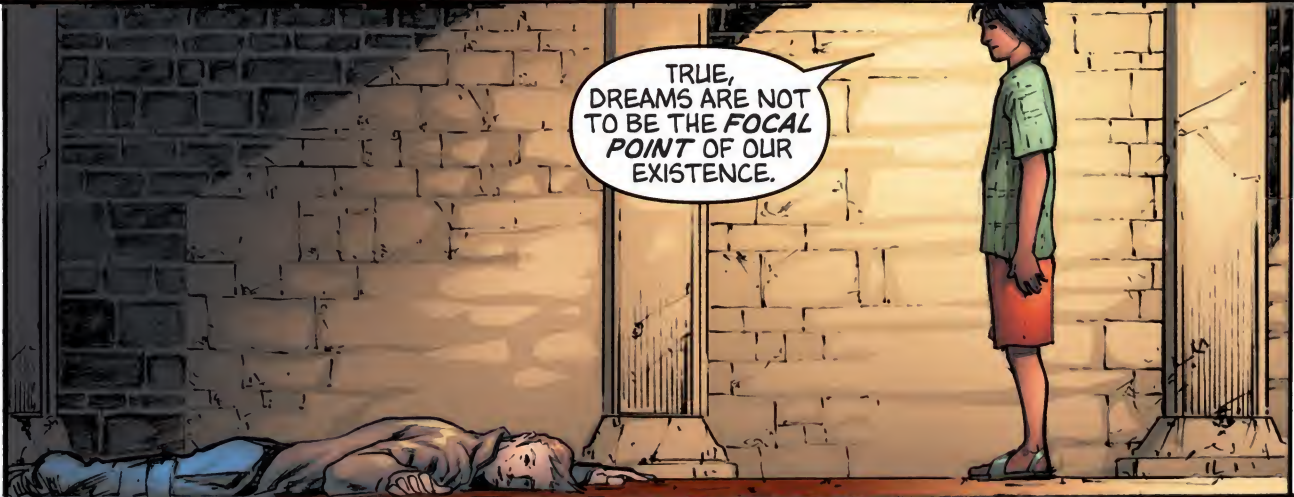
I ALWAYS HEARD THAT IF YOU *DIE* IN YOUR DREAM, YOU DIE IN *REAL LIFE*. WELL, I DIE EVERY TIME. SO, WHAT DOES *THAT* TELL YOU?



IT TELLS ME THAT *FREUD* WAS AN *IDIOT*. DREAMS DON'T MEAN *SQUAT*.



TRUE, DREAMS ARE NOT TO BE THE *FOCAL POINT* OF OUR EXISTENCE.



THAT WHICH IS *HERE*, SHOULD REMAIN *HERE*...

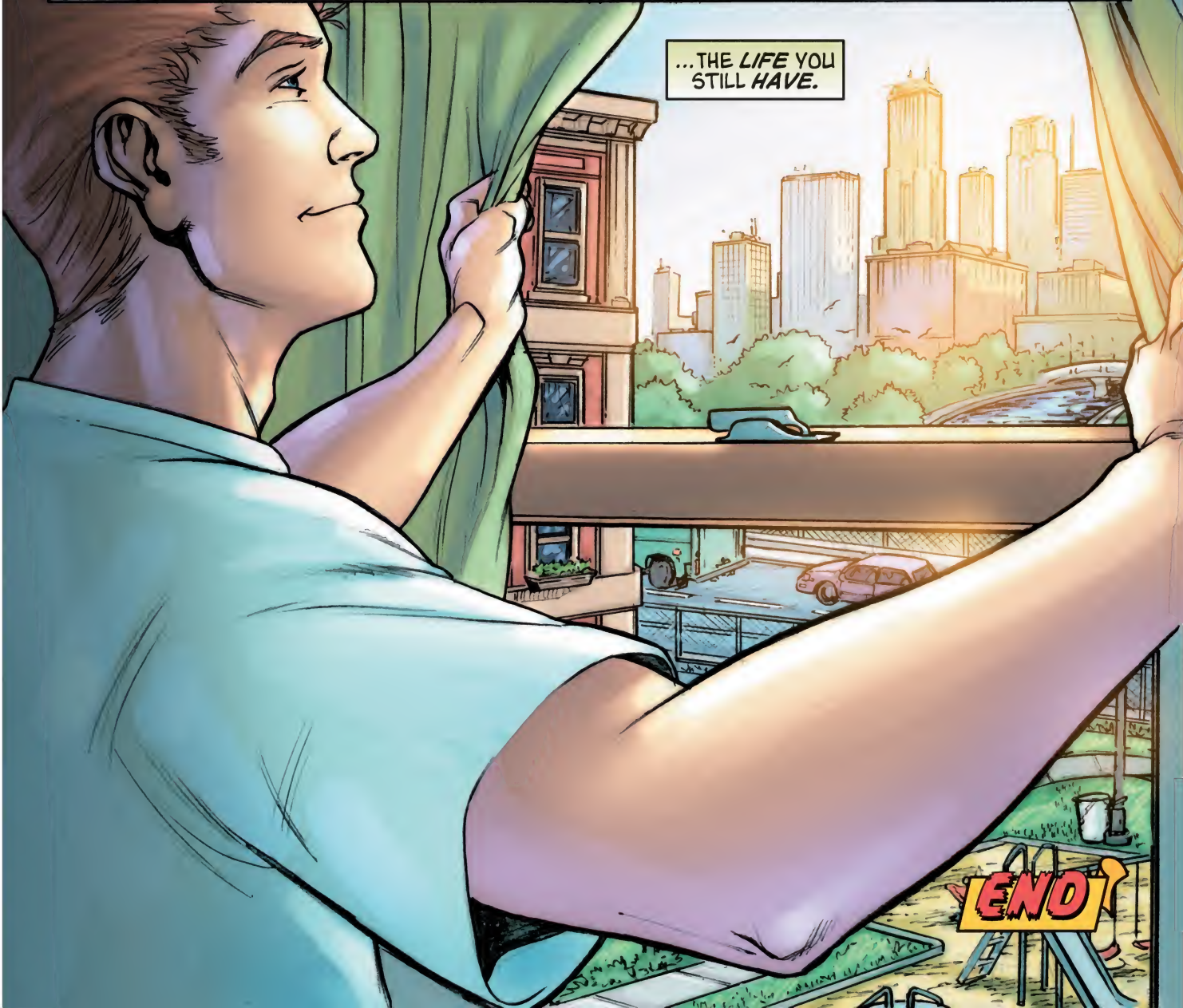




...WHILE YOU DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION *ELSEWHERE*.



FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS *MOST*...



...THE *LIFE* YOU STILL HAVE.

END!

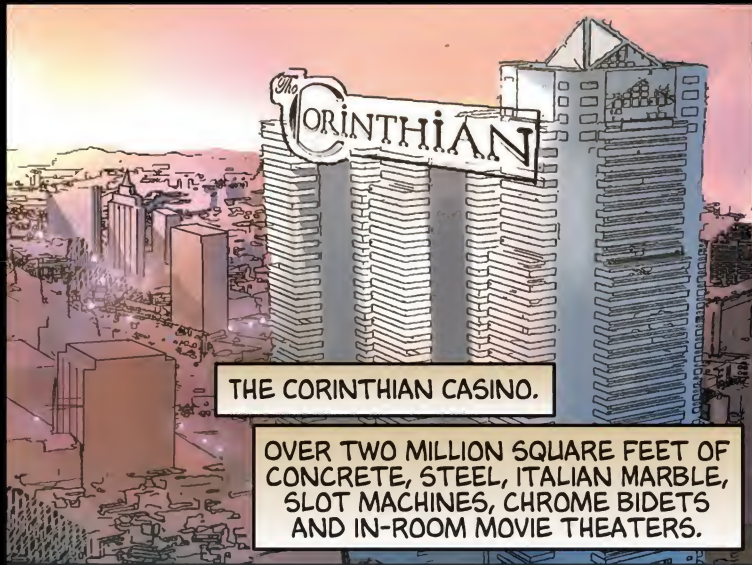


HEROES

CHAPTER 77

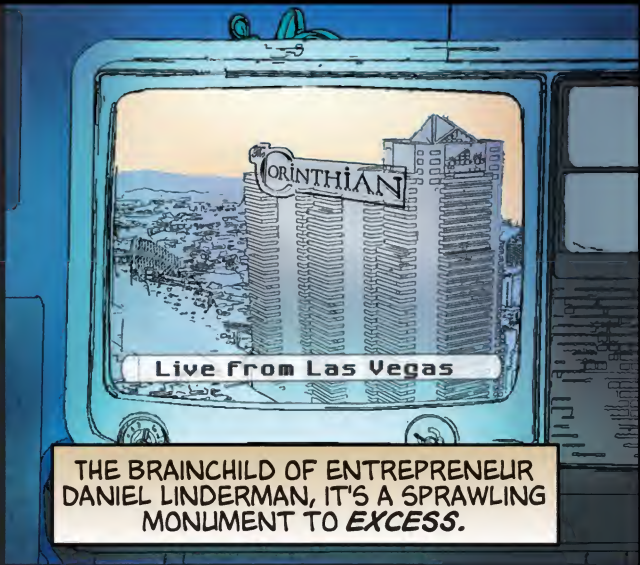
ON THE LAM

After the voting machines were hacked, Linderman's former software engineer, Brian, went into hiding for fear of Linderman's wrath. He decided to hide out in the open and work at a long forgotten hotel...until hearing the news of Linderman's death and the demolition of The Corinthian Hotel.

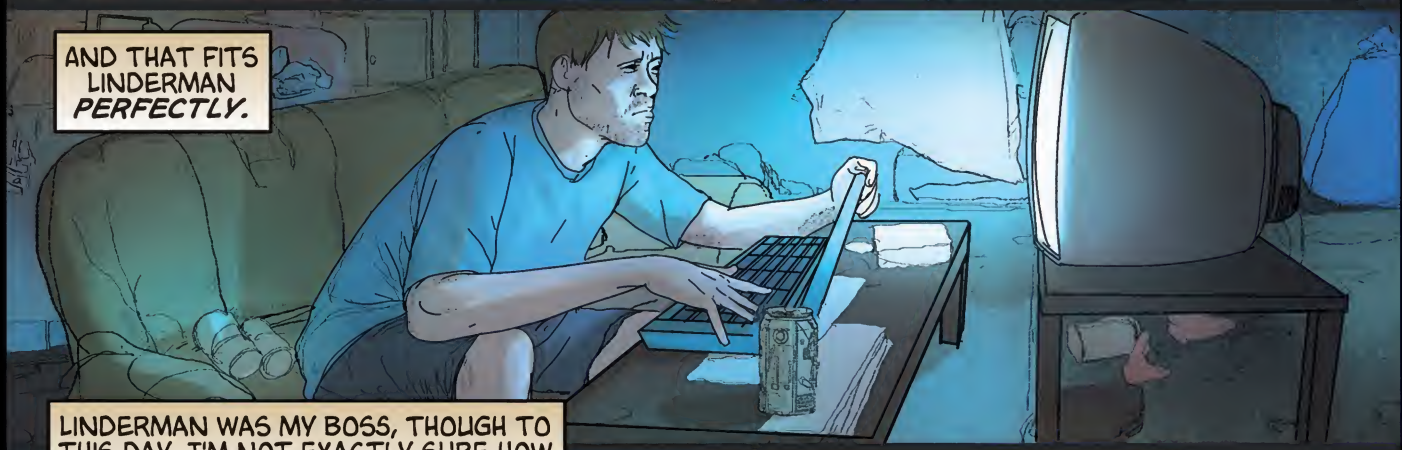


THE CORINTHIAN CASINO.

OVER TWO MILLION SQUARE FEET OF CONCRETE, STEEL, ITALIAN MARBLE, SLOT MACHINES, CHROME BIDETS AND IN-ROOM MOVIE THEATERS.

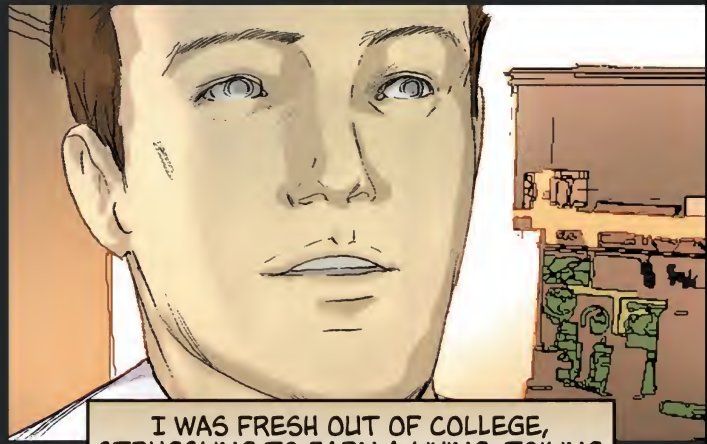
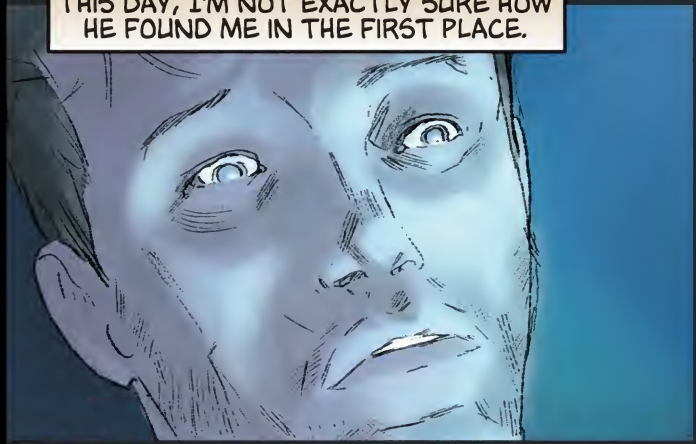


THE BRAINCHILD OF ENTREPRENEUR DANIEL LINDERMAN, IT'S A SPRAWLING MONUMENT TO EXCESS.



AND THAT FITS LINDERMAN PERFECTLY.

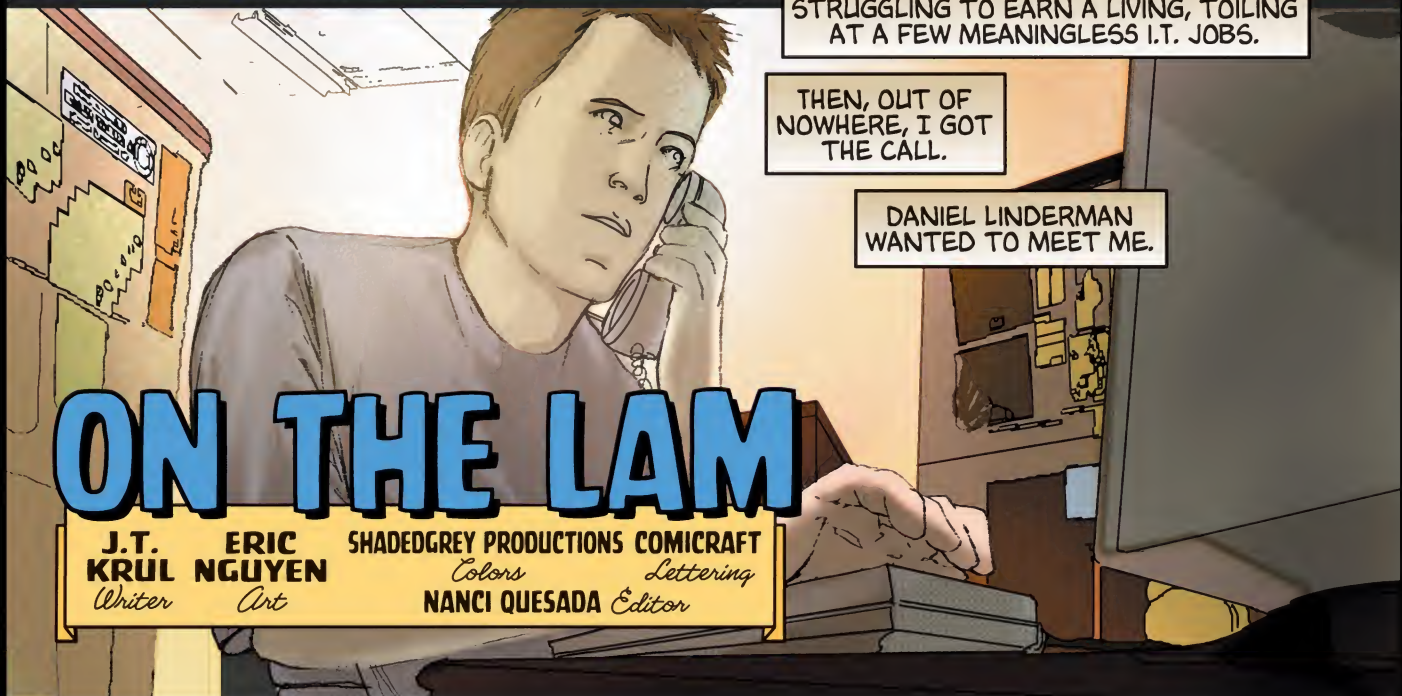
LINDERMAN WAS MY BOSS, THOUGH TO THIS DAY, I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE HOW HE FOUND ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.



I WAS FRESH OUT OF COLLEGE, STRUGGLING TO EARN A LIVING, TOILING AT A FEW MEANINGLESS I.T. JOBS.


THEN, OUT OF NOWHERE, I GOT THE CALL.

DANIEL LINDERMAN WANTED TO MEET ME.




ON THE LAM


J.T. KRUL Writer ERIC NGUYEN Art SHADEGREY PRODUCTIONS COMICRAFT Colors Nanci Quesada Editor Lettering



IN THIS TOWN,
LINDERMAN WAS
LIKE ROYALTY.




HE WAS ONE OF THOSE GLUYS
WHO ALWAYS POPPED UP IN THE
GOSSIP RAGS, CONNECTED TO
THIS BEAUTIFUL ACTRESS OR
THAT ORGANIZED CRIME
FIGURE.



HE MADE ME AN OFFER
I COULDN'T REFUSE...

...AND I HAD **NO PROBLEM**
GOING ALONG FOR THE RIDE.



MY FIRST JOB WAS TO
DESIGN THE CORINTHIAN'S
WEBSITE...

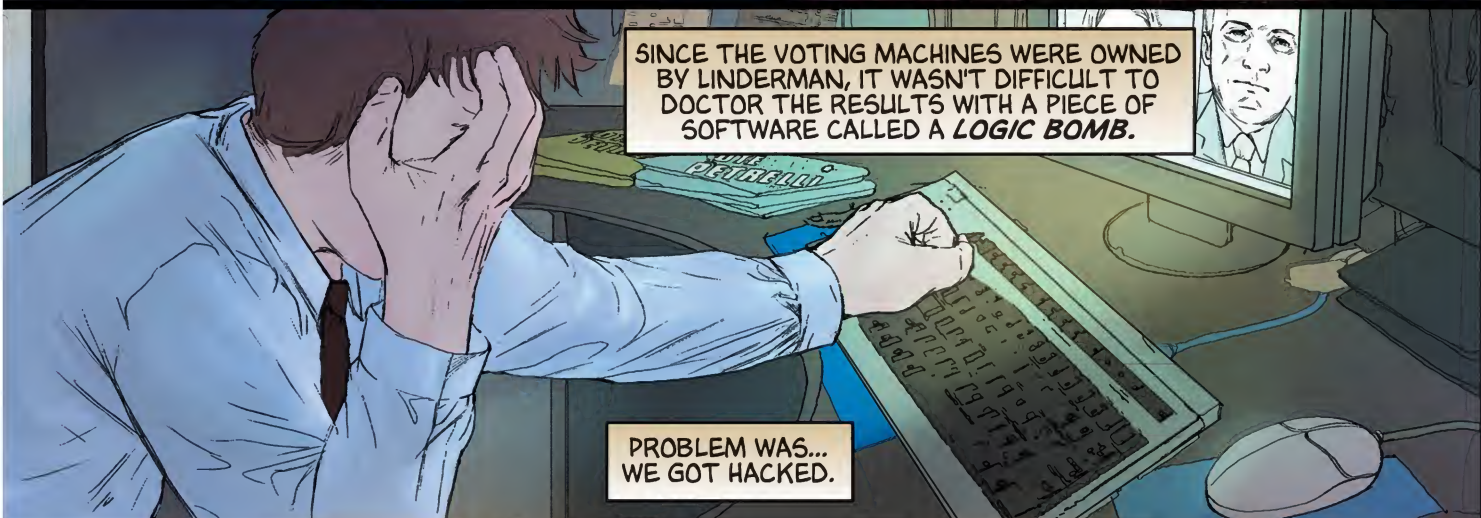
...AFTER DOING A BIT OF
RESEARCH, OF COURSE.

YEAH, LIFE WAS GOOD...



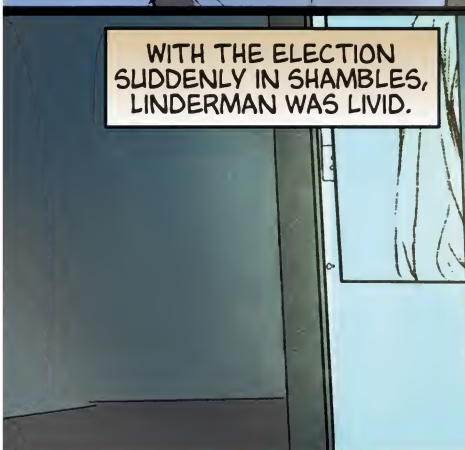
...UNTIL HE ASKED ME TO DO A "FAVOR" FOR A FRIEND -- A NEW YORK POLITICIAN NAMED **NATHAN PETRELLI**.

MY JOB WAS TO HELP PETRELLI GET ELECTED, WITH A LITTLE ASSISTANCE FROM SOME OTHER PROGRAMMERS AND AN UNSUSPECTING NEW YORK ELECTION OFFICIAL.



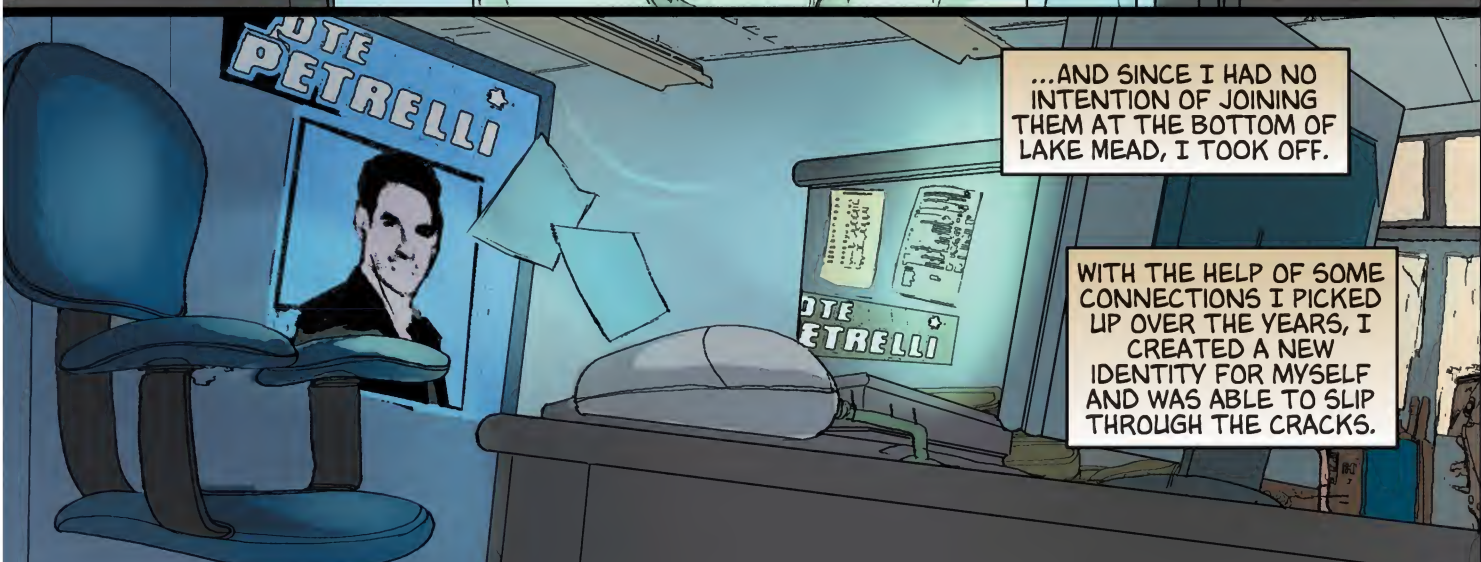
SINCE THE VOTING MACHINES WERE OWNED BY LINDERMAN, IT WASN'T DIFFICULT TO DOCTOR THE RESULTS WITH A PIECE OF SOFTWARE CALLED A **LOGIC BOMB**.

PROBLEM WAS... WE GOT HACKED.



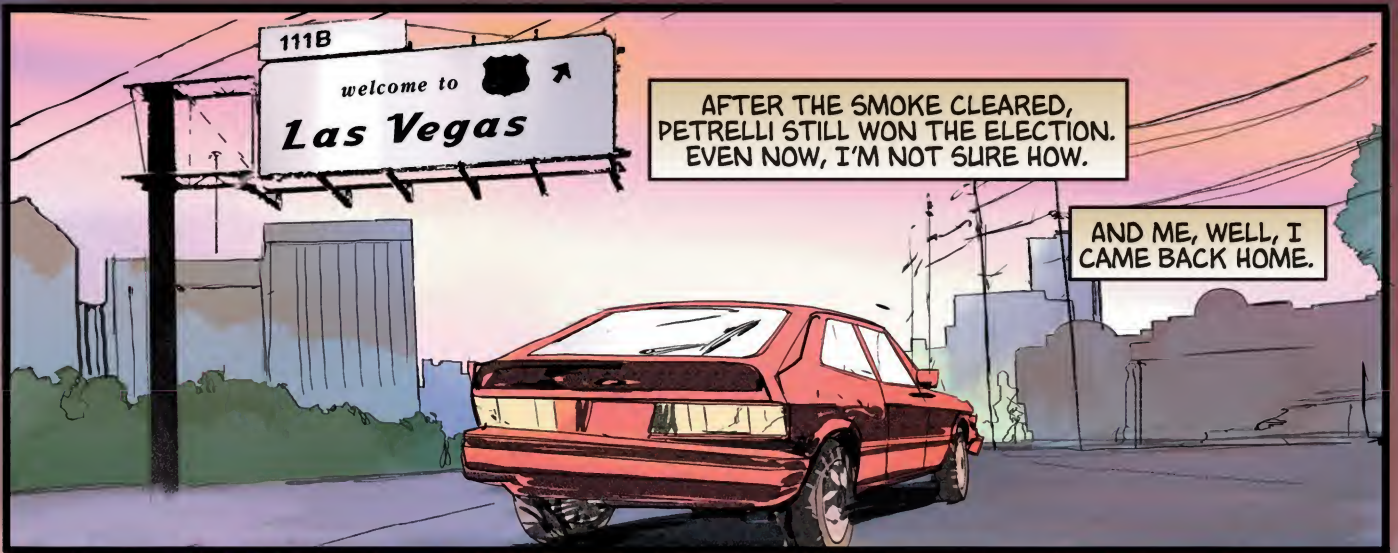
WITH THE ELECTION SUDDENLY IN SHAMBLES, LINDERMAN WAS LIVID.

I'D HEARD STORIES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO GUYS WHO ENDED UP ON HIS BAD SIDE...



...AND SINCE I HAD NO INTENTION OF JOINING THEM AT THE BOTTOM OF LAKE MEAD, I TOOK OFF.

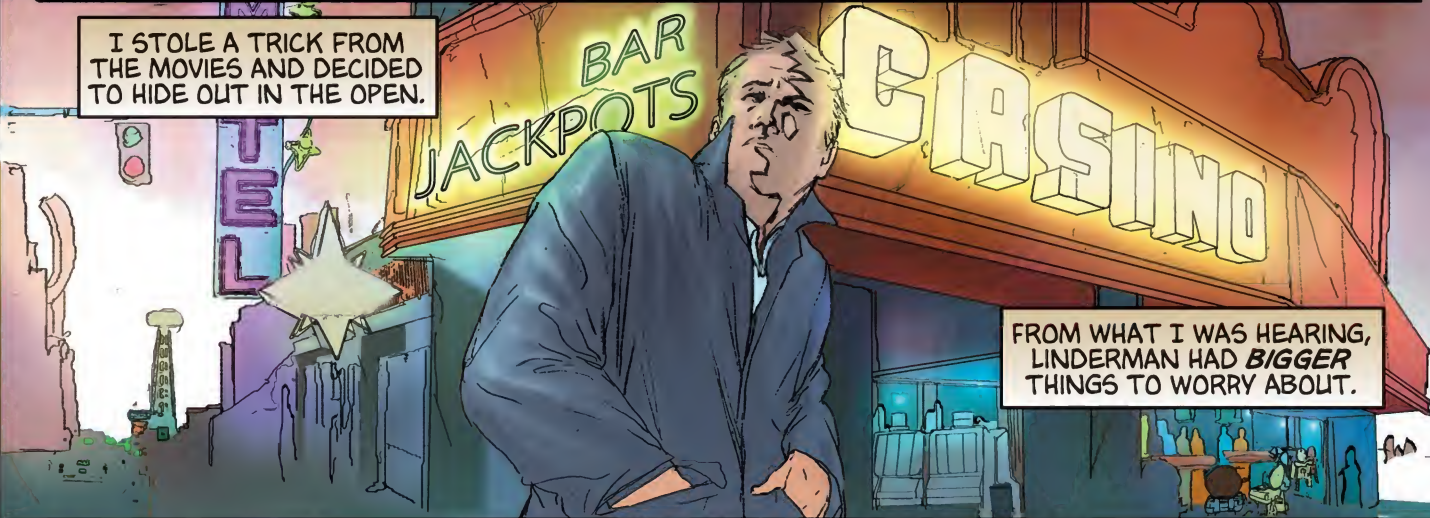
WITH THE HELP OF SOME CONNECTIONS I PICKED UP OVER THE YEARS, I CREATED A NEW IDENTITY FOR MYSELF AND WAS ABLE TO SLIP THROUGH THE CRACKS.



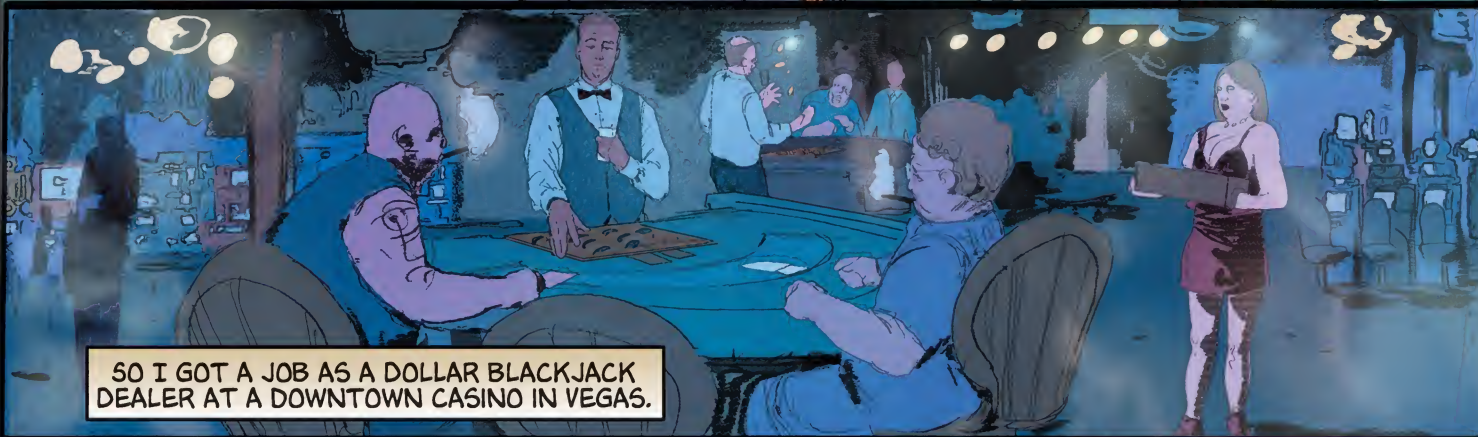
AFTER THE SMOKE CLEARED, PETRELLI STILL WON THE ELECTION. EVEN NOW, I'M NOT SURE HOW.

AND ME, WELL, I CAME BACK HOME.

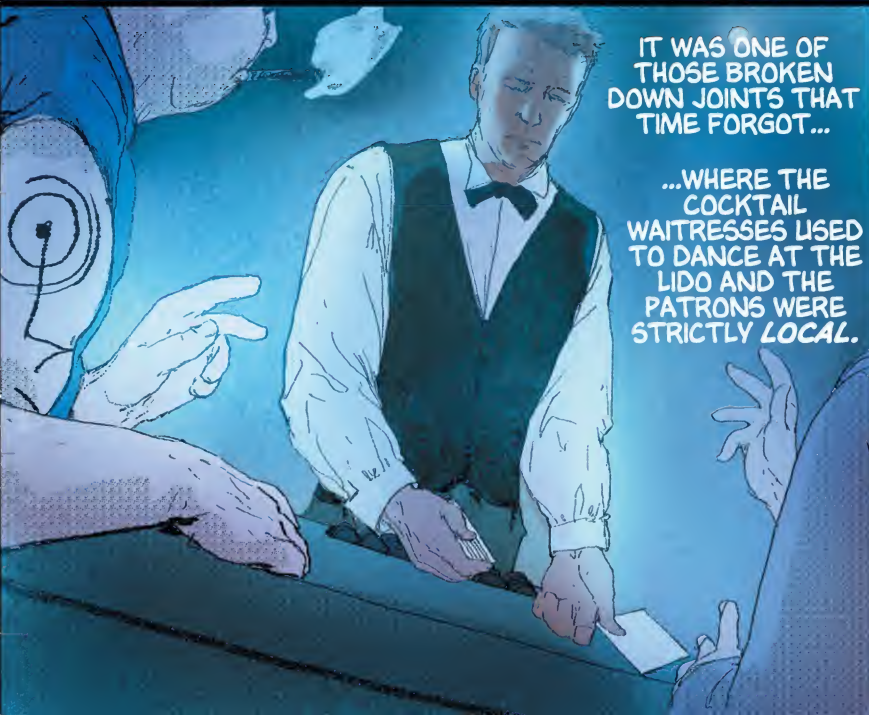
I STOLE A TRICK FROM THE MOVIES AND DECIDED TO HIDE OUT IN THE OPEN.



FROM WHAT I WAS HEARING, LINDERMAN HAD *BIGGER* THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.



SO I GOT A JOB AS A DOLLAR BLACKJACK DEALER AT A DOWNTOWN CASINO IN VEGAS.



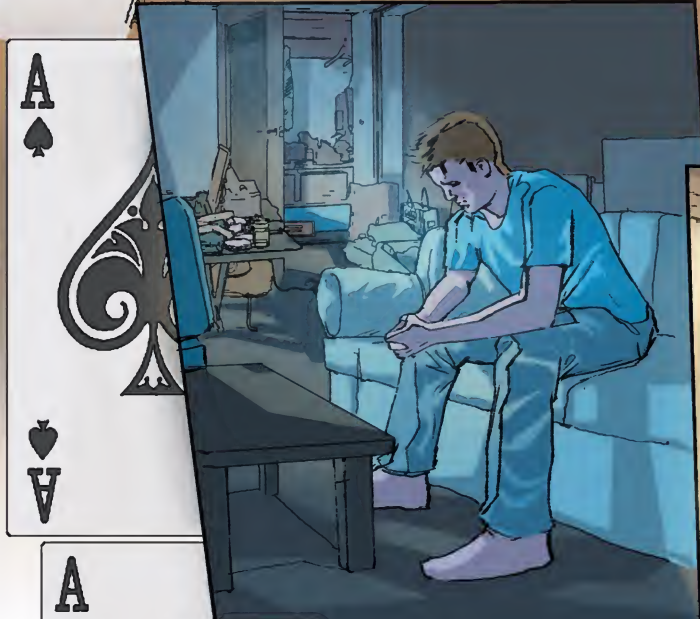
IT WAS ONE OF THOSE BROKEN DOWN JOINTS THAT TIME FORGOT...

...WHERE THE COCKTAIL WAITRESSES USED TO DANCE AT THE LIDO AND THE PATRONS WERE STRICTLY LOCAL.




THE KIND OF PLACE WHERE NOBODY ASKED QUESTIONS...

Q 4 A 8 K 2 7 5 J 3 6 9



...AND THE DAYS WERE ALL THE SAME.



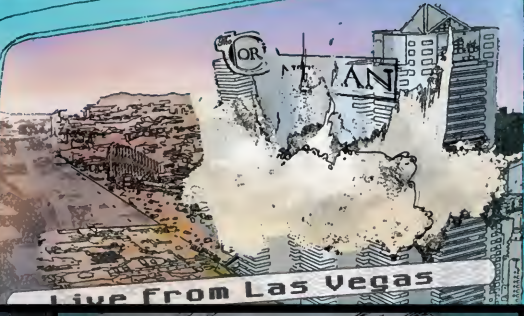
NOW I LIVE HERE,
IN AN ABANDONED
NUCLEAR FALLOUT
SHELTER.

WHEN I TELL PEOPLE, THEY
THINK I'M BEING TRENDY.
BUT I'M REALLY JUST BROKE.

RUNNING FROM
LINDERMAN COST
ME EVERYTHING...

...BUT AT LEAST
I'M STILL ALIVE.

UNLIKE
LINDERMAN.



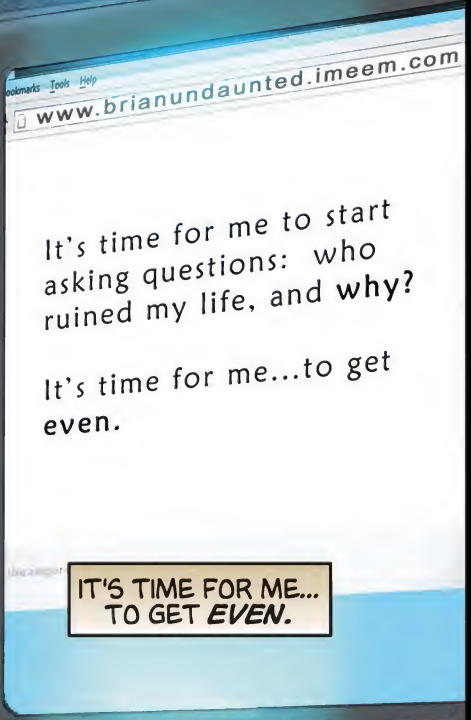
TOO MANY
ENEMIES,
I GUESS.

AND AS THE LAST VESTIGES
OF HIS EMPIRE CRUMBLE TO
THE GROUND, I REALIZE
THAT IT'S TIME FOR ME TO
COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS.

...I realize that it's time for
me to come out of the
shadows.



IT'S TIME FOR ME TO START
ASKING QUESTIONS: WHO
RUIINED MY LIFE, AND *WHY?*



IT'S TIME FOR ME...
TO GET *EVEN.*



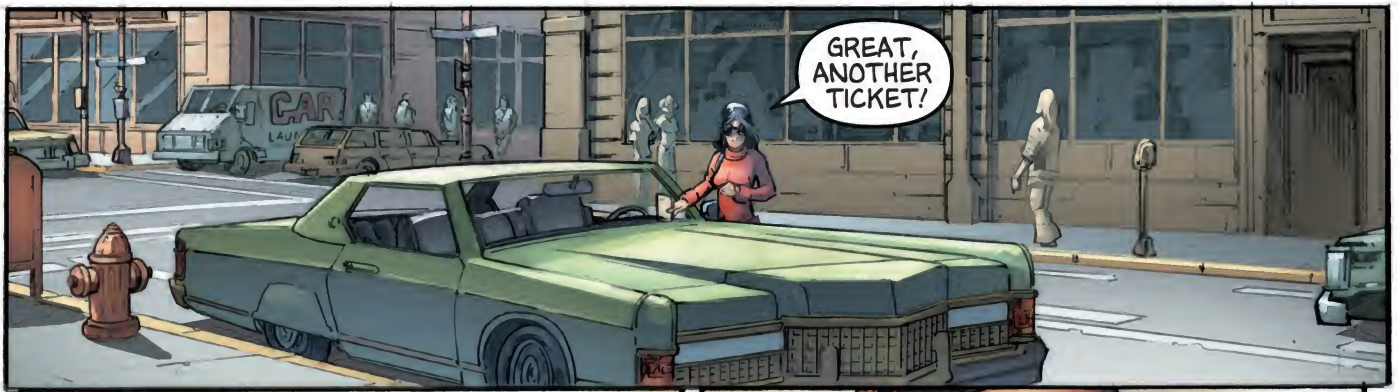
HEROES

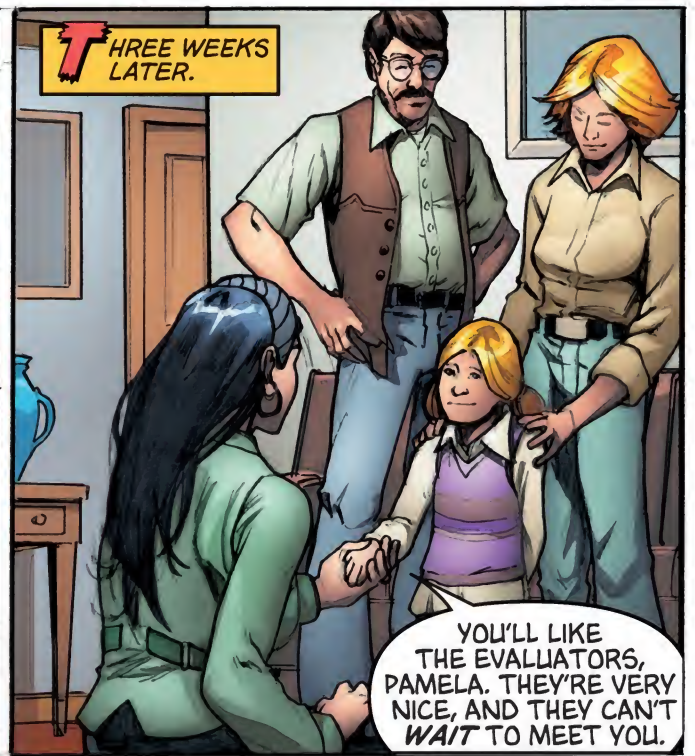
CHAPTER 78

BOUNTY HUNTER

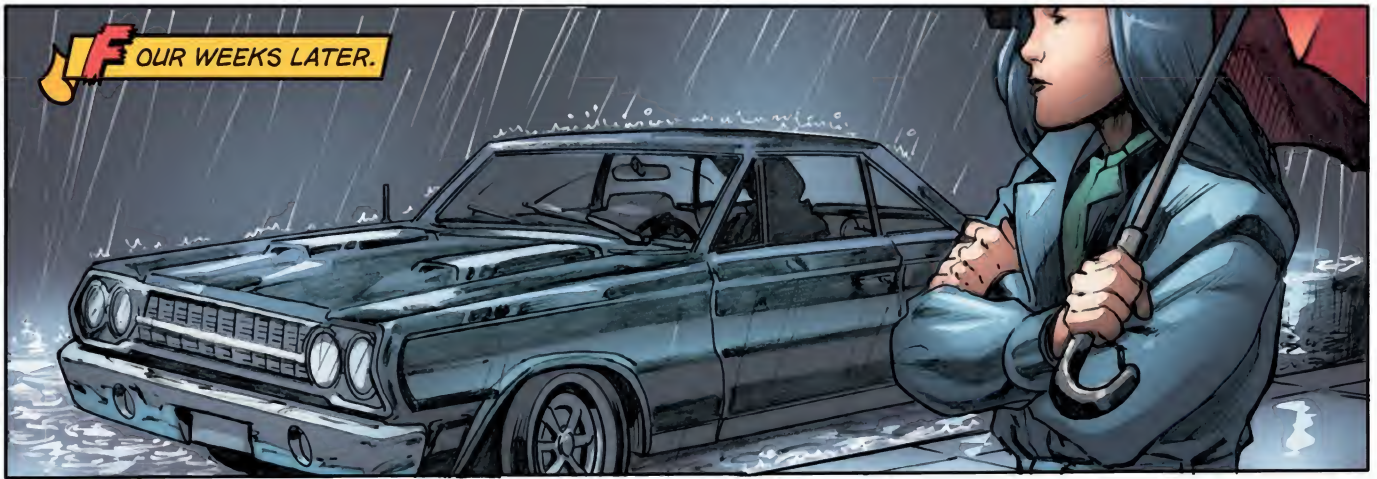
Before tracking down Linderman, Linda Tavera was working for a private investigator, helping locate people that no one else could find. But her good work didn't go unnoticed. See how she obtained her notebook and the contents within it.



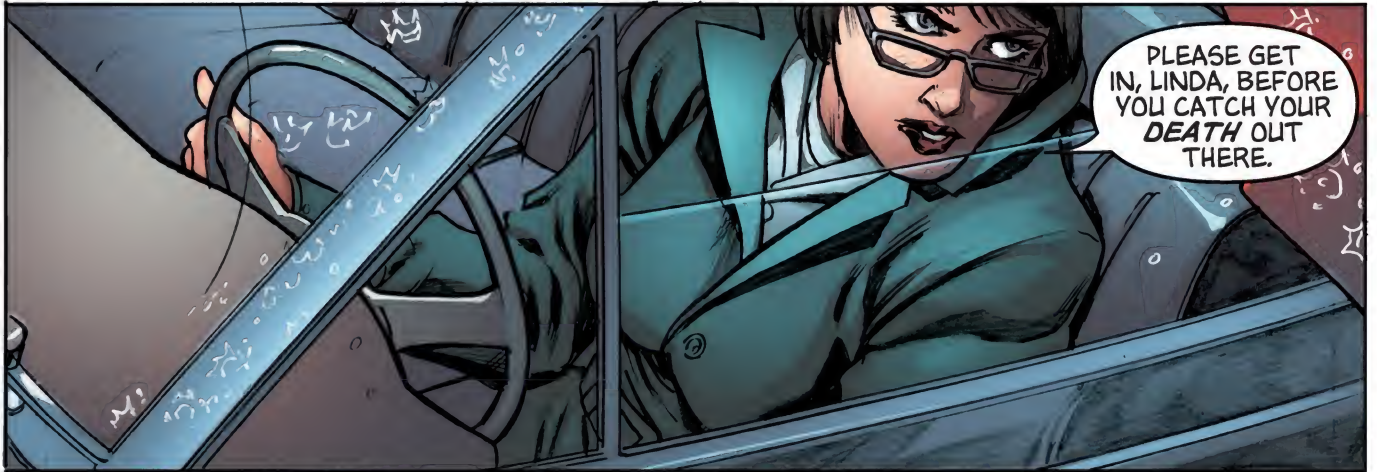








FOUR WEEKS LATER.



PLEASE GET IN, LINDA, BEFORE YOU CATCH YOUR DEATH OUT THERE.



THIS IS A DOSSIER ON YOUR NEXT ACQUISITION. HE'LL BE ARRIVING IN DENVER FRIDAY AFTERNOON.



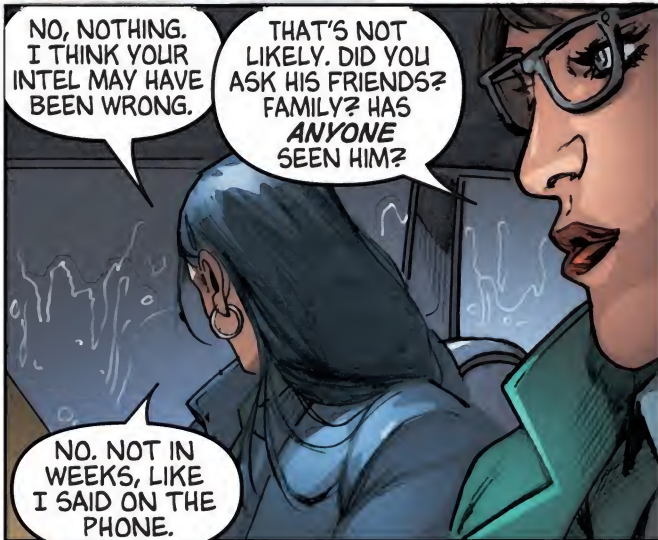
WOW, HIGH FUNCTIONING. THIS SHOULD BE FUN.

YES, AND I WANT THIS ONE BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO ME.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHY HAVE YOU BEEN OUT OF CONTACT?

I'M SORRY, SOMETHING CAME UP.

DO YOU HAVE A LEAD ON JASON WELKES YET?



NO, NOTHING. I THINK YOUR INTEL MAY HAVE BEEN WRONG.

THAT'S NOT LIKELY. DID YOU ASK HIS FRIENDS? FAMILY? HAS ANYONE SEEN HIM?

NO. NOT IN WEEKS, LIKE I SAID ON THE PHONE.



THEN PERHAPS YOU'RE NOT THE RIGHT WOMAN FOR THIS OPERATION. I CAN'T AFFORD YOU BOTCHING THIS NEXT ACQUISITION.

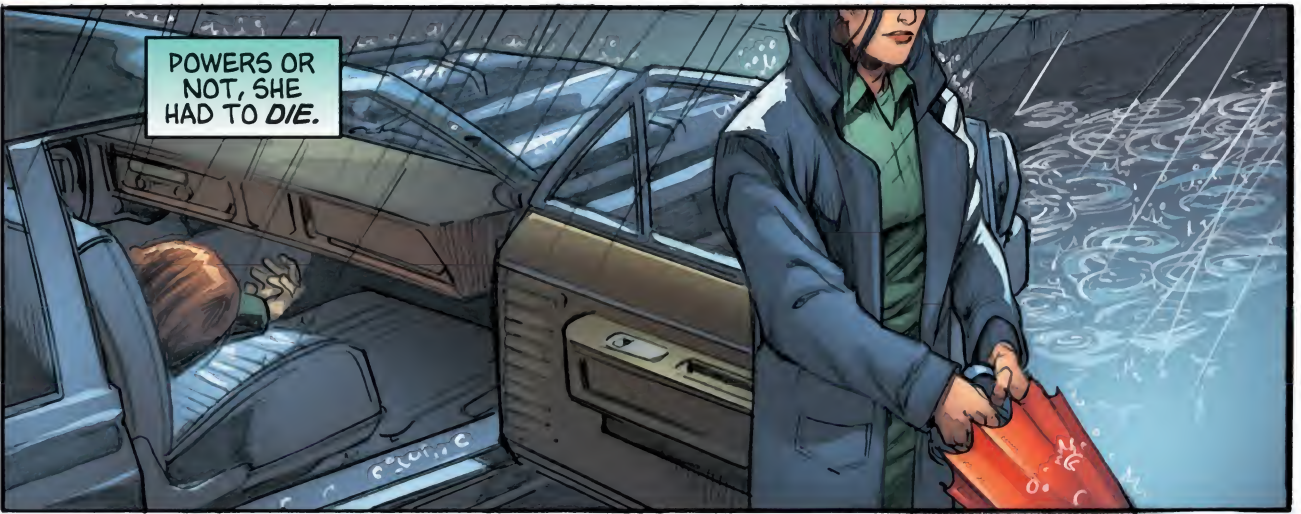
WHAT? NO!

I'M SORRY, MISS TAVARA.

I PANICKED, I
COULDN'T LET
HER TAKE HIM
AWAY FROM ME.



POWERS OR
NOT, SHE
HAD TO DIE.



WELCOME TO
CENTENNIAL AIRPORT
IN BEAUTIFUL DENVER
COLORADO. WE HOPE
YOU ENJOY YOUR
STAY.

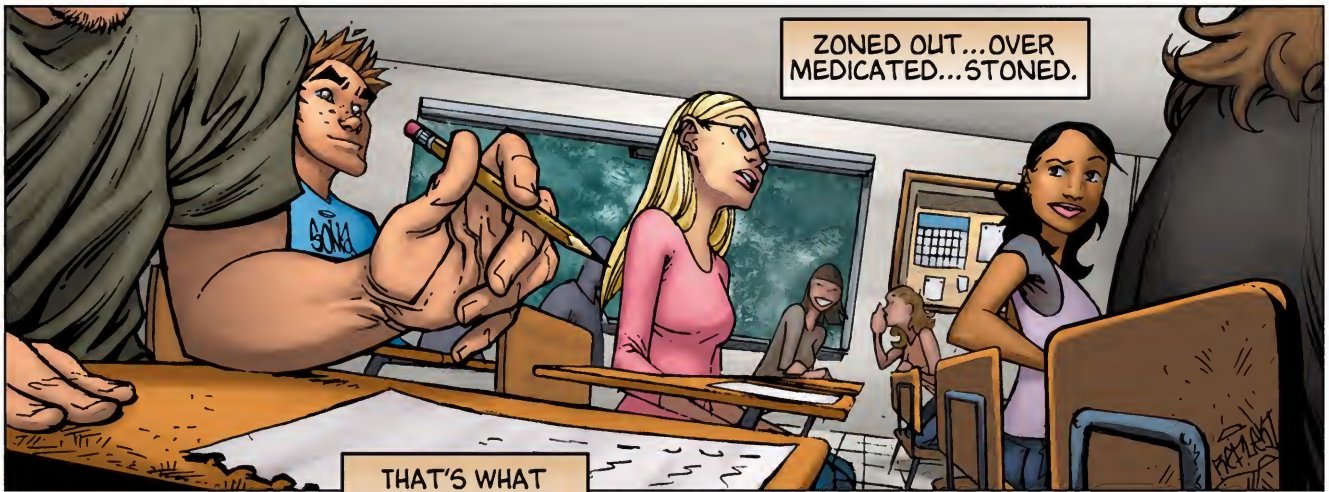




HEROES

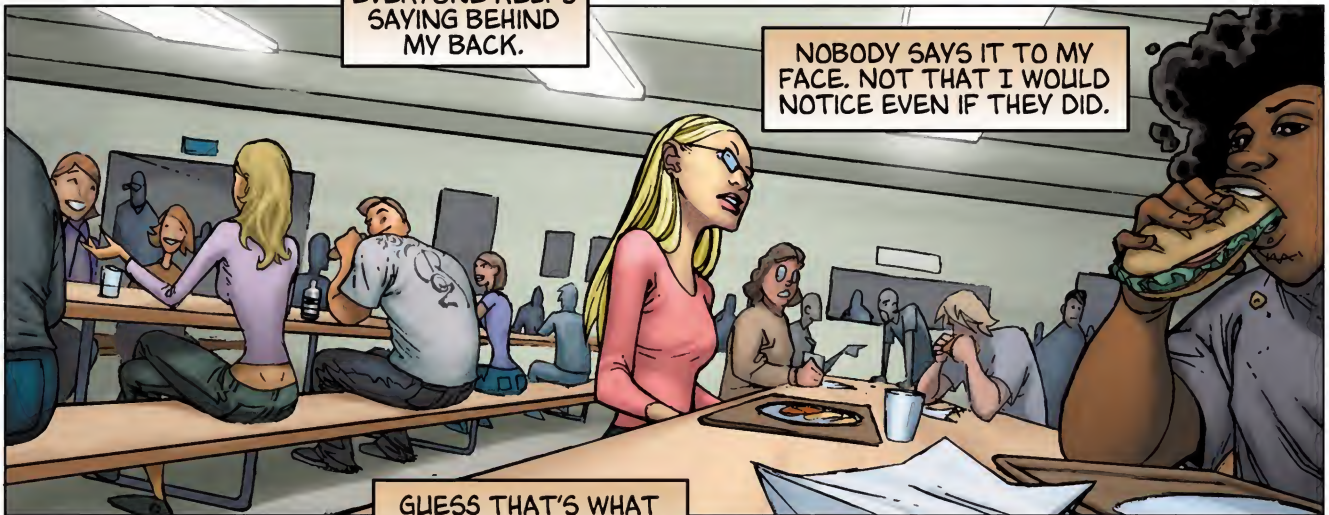
CHAPTER 79 DIFFERENT AND THE SAME

Piper experiences the same terrible dream every night, but can never seem to recall it. While struggling to stay awake, she falls asleep and is visited by Sanjog Iyer who helps reveal the secrets of her past. Piper learns that our most important memories find ways to be remembered.



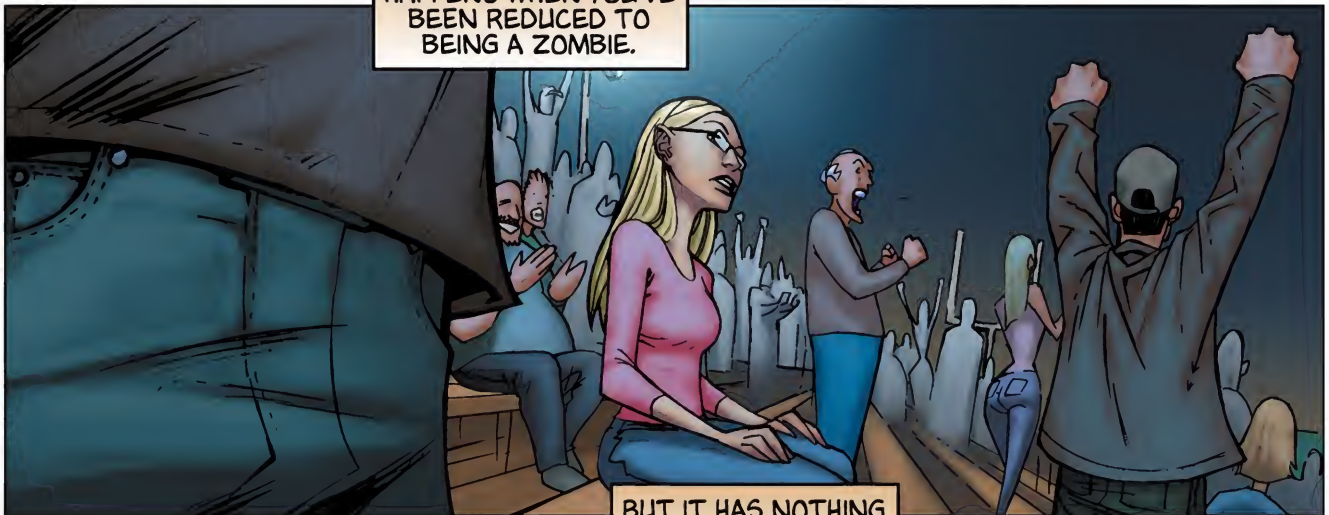
ZONED OUT...OVER
MEDICATED...STONED.

THAT'S WHAT
EVERYONE KEEPS
SAYING BEHIND
MY BACK.



NOBODY SAYS IT TO MY
FACE. NOT THAT I WOULD
NOTICE EVEN IF THEY DID.

GUESS THAT'S WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN YOU'VE
BEEN REDUCED TO
BEING A ZOMBIE.



BUT IT HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH DRUGS
OR ALCOHOL.

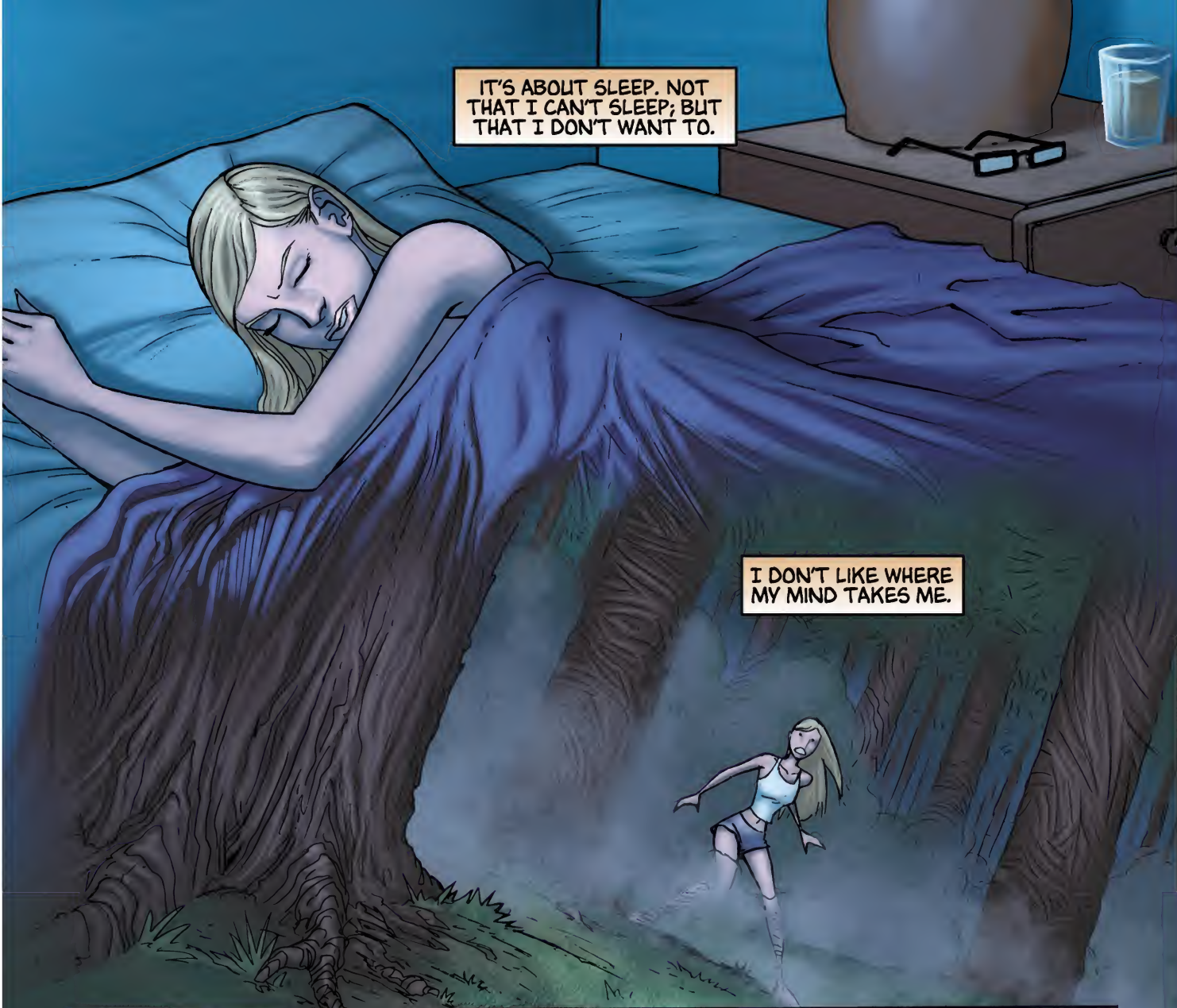


DIFFERENT AND THE SAME

J.T. KRUL **MICAH GUNNEL** **MARK ROSLAN**
Writer Pencils Digital Inks

JOHN STARR **COMICRAFT**
Colors Lettering

An ASPEN MLT INC. Production




IT'S ABOUT SLEEP. NOT THAT I CAN'T SLEEP; BUT THAT I DON'T WANT TO.

I DON'T LIKE WHERE MY MIND TAKES ME.



WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?



I MEAN YOU NO HARM. THIS PLACE... IT HAUNTS YOU. THE DARKNESS IT BRINGS IS LIKE POISON IN YOUR SOUL. YOU MUST EXPOSE THE TRUTH FOR WHAT IT IS.



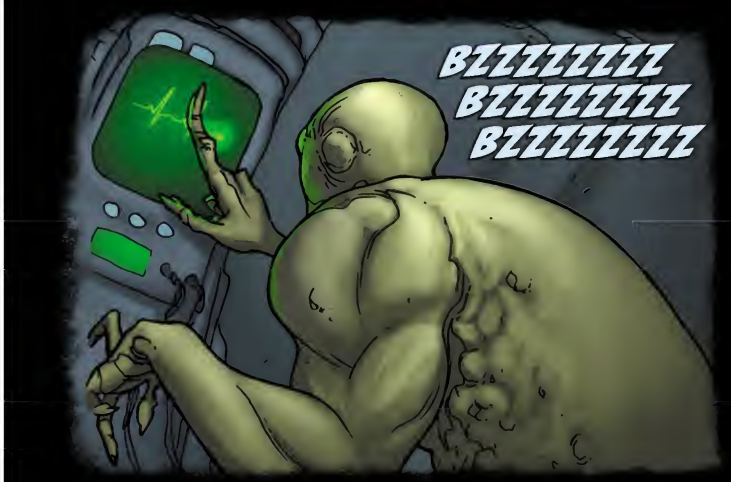
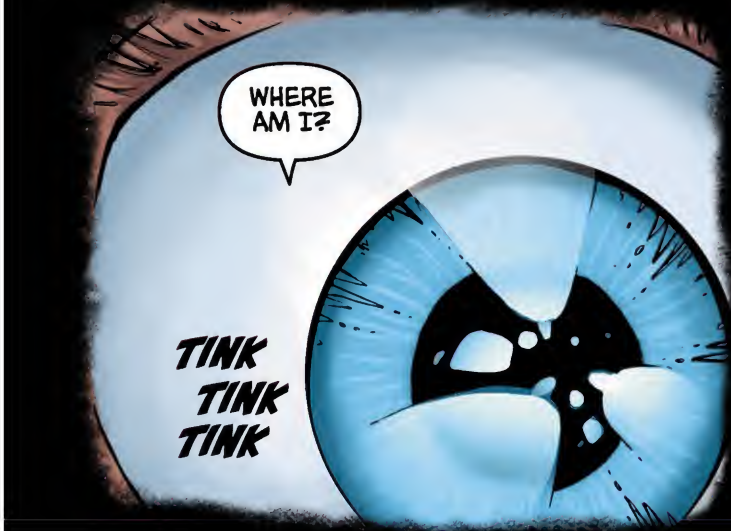
THEY'RE HERE!

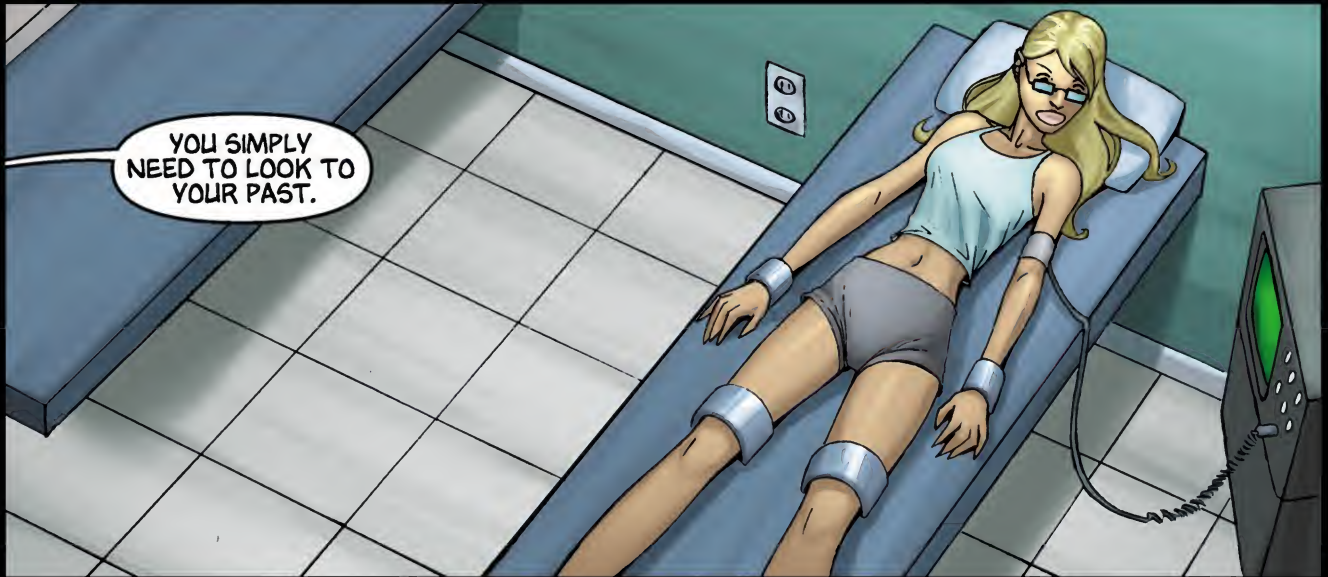
THEY KNOW YOU ARE SPECIAL AND WANT TO KNOW YOUR SECRETS. YOU MUST LOOK WITHIN YOURSELF TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY.



IT CAN HELP PROTECT YOU FROM THEM.

SSSSSTOOOOO PPPP!

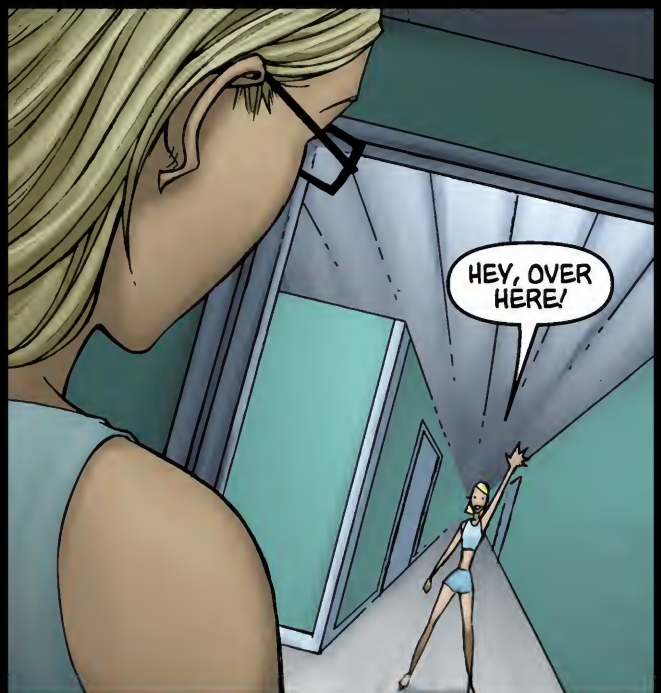




YOU SIMPLY
NEED TO LOOK TO
YOUR PAST.



CAN'T BELIEVE
I REACHED IT.



HEY, OVER
HERE!



AS THE IMAGES BECAME CLEAR, SO DID THE TRUTH.

THEY WEREN'T MONSTERS.

THEY WERE JUST MEN.



THAT ONE'S LOCKED. TRY THE OTHER ONE!



WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?

I'M YOUR SISTER, DEBBIE. WE WERE SEPARATED AT BIRTH, THIS IS MY HOME, DON'T MAKE IT YOURS. NOW, GO!



COME ON!

IT'S... TOO SMALL. HOW DID YOU...?

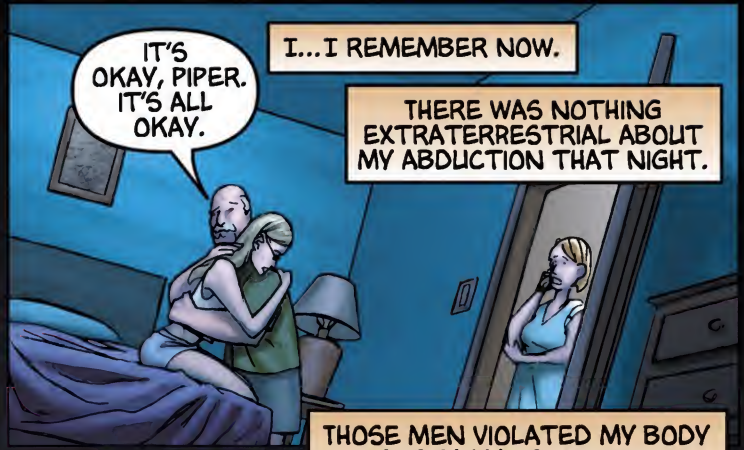


PIPER!

NO!



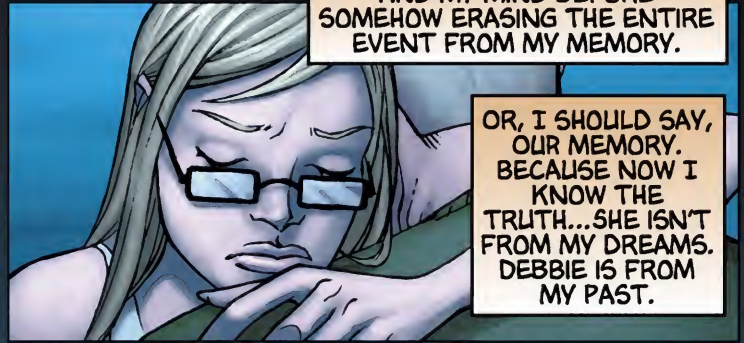
DEBBIE!



IT'S OKAY, PIPER. IT'S ALL OKAY.

I... I REMEMBER NOW.

THERE WAS NOTHING EXTRATERRESTRIAL ABOUT MY ABDUCTION THAT NIGHT.

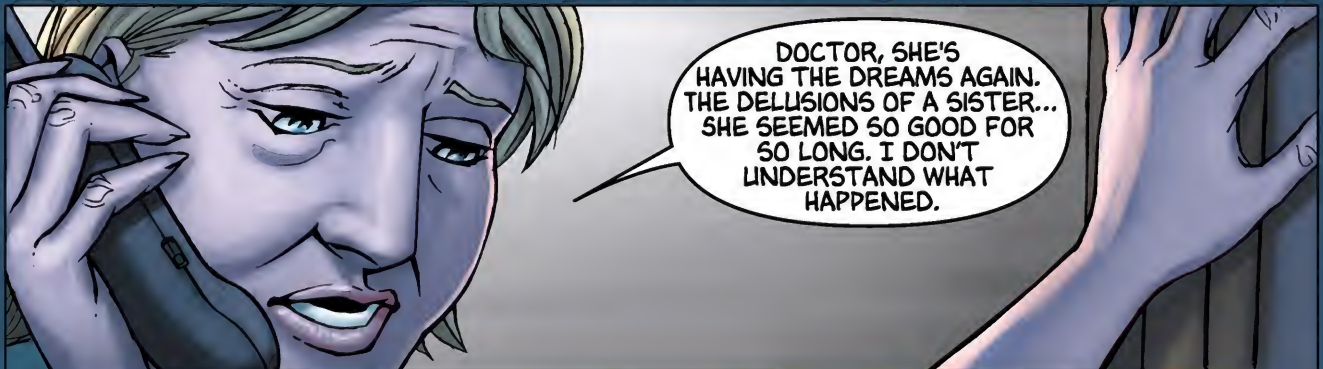


THOSE MEN VIOLATED MY BODY AND MY MIND BEFORE SOMEHOW ERASING THE ENTIRE EVENT FROM MY MEMORY.

OR, I SHOULD SAY, OUR MEMORY. BECAUSE NOW I KNOW THE TRUTH... SHE ISN'T FROM MY DREAMS. DEBBIE IS FROM MY PAST.



I HAVE A SISTER.



DOCTOR, SHE'S HAVING THE DREAMS AGAIN. THE DELUSIONS OF A SISTER... SHE SEEMED SO GOOD FOR SO LONG. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED.



IT'S OKAY. SOMETIMES EXTERNAL FORCES TRIGGER THE EPISODES. YOU DID THE RIGHT THING BY CALLING.

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL BE RIGHT OVER...

END



HEROES

CHAPTER 80 MOONLIGHT SERENADE

Linda learns at a young age that she has a powerful, but deadly ability. After being home schooled and kept like a prisoner all her life, Linda starts to become restless. She soon discovers that she is able to see bands of energy surrounding living things, and the more powerful they are; the more Linda is drawn to them.

LINDA TAVARA,
1967

My parents are afraid of me.
I can tell.

**KNOCK
KNOCK**

YES?



IS EVERYTHING
OKAY, HONEY?

I'M FINE,
MOM.

WE'RE JUST DOWN THE
HALL IF YOU NEED
ANYTHING SWEETHEART,
OKAY?

I SAID
I'M FINE/
REALLY.

They won't even come
into my room anymore.

That's just as
well. I don't
want them to
come into my
room and see
what's in the
boxes.

Ground Squirrel:
Backyard

Linda's
Journal

There had to be more to life than my tiny house, my tiny room, and my tiny back yard-- filled with tiny animals with tiny auras. Auras, I guess that's what you call them.



I wanted more.



I dream about auras every night. Lots of them.



They wait for me. It's like each person holds a star beneath their skin, each one begging to escape.



Some of them shine so bright I couldn't help but be warmed by their presence.



I longed for that warmth. And, with every touch of every hand, I felt it flow through me.



I could feel everything, their hopes, their dreams for the future, while they no longer felt anything at all. Their spark belonged to me now.



Whenever I had those dreams I awoke with an intense craving to feel the way I felt in my dreams.

One night, I couldn't stand the gnawing thirst any longer.



I spent my nights just watching others--observing the beautiful colors that surrounded them.



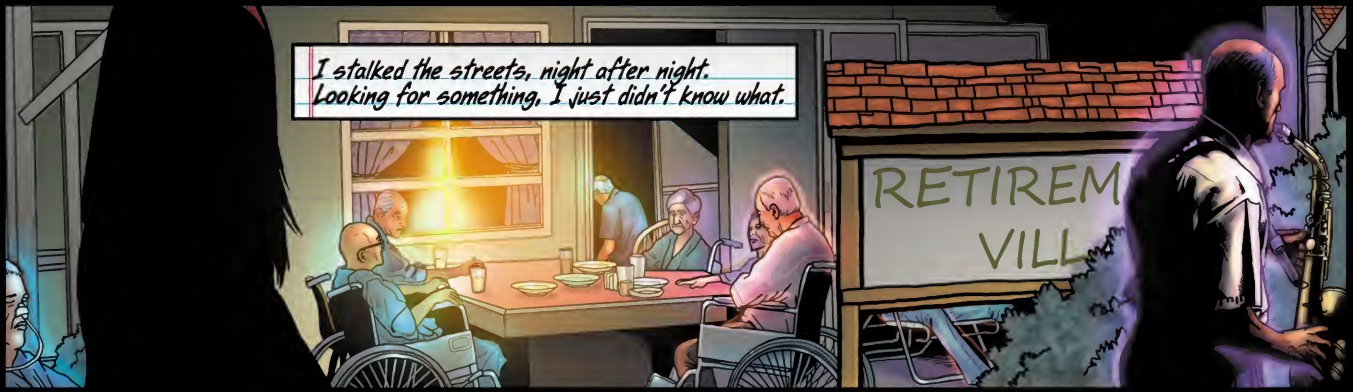
Some beamed bright like beacons.



Others flickered like tiny candles.



But they all called out to me. Begging me to take them.



*I stalked the streets, night after night.
Looking for something, I just didn't know what.*



Until I saw her light.

ANGELS!

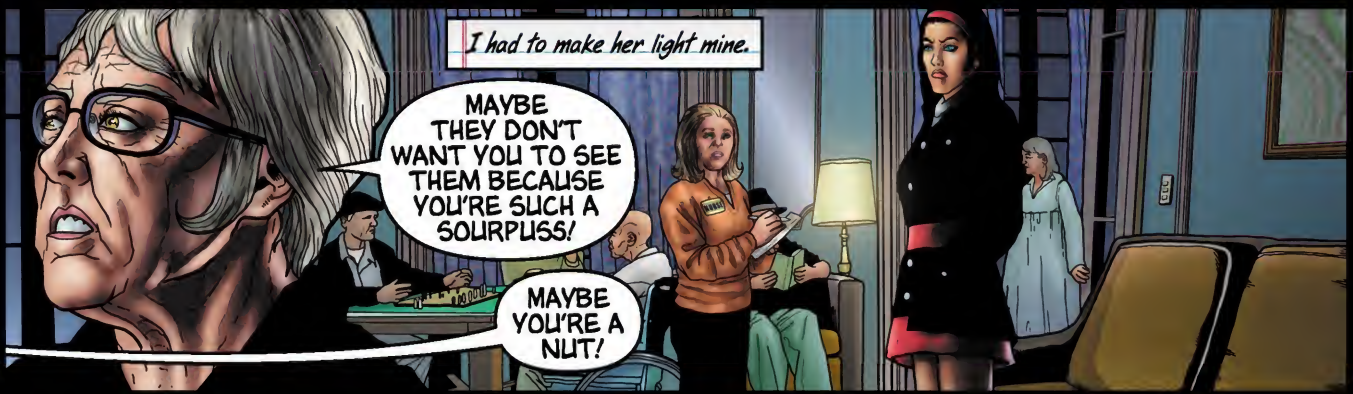
Her light wasn't just bright, it blazed.



YOU DON'T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT NO ANGELS, IDA MAY WALKER!

I'VE SEEN 'EM, WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. THEY WOULD COME TO ME.

THEN HOW COME I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE?



I had to make her light mine.

MAYBE THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE THEM BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A SOURPUSS!

MAYBE YOU'RE A NUT!



DO YOU NEED A VISITOR'S PASS, MISS?

WHAT? OH, YES.



MISS WALKER?

I WAS INSIDE VISITING MY NANA AND THE RECEPTIONIST SAID YOU HAVE A TELEPHONE CALL IN YOUR ROOM.

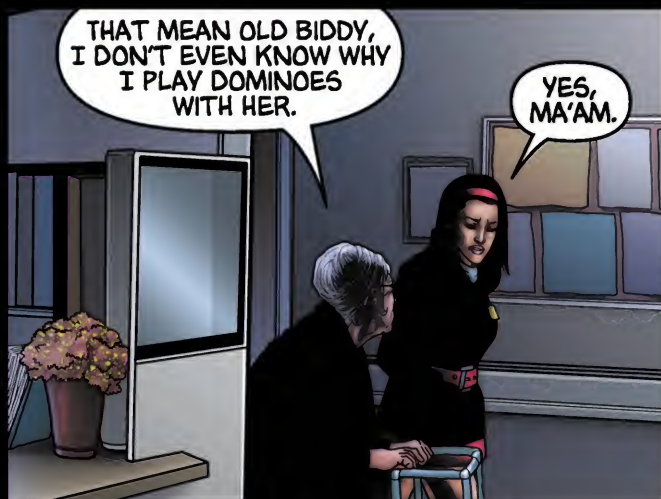
A TELEPHONE CALL? FOR ME?

MAYBE IT'S ONE OF THEM ANGELS.



YOU JUST BE QUITE YOU OLD SOW! AND DON'T YOU CHEAT WHILE I'M GONE EITHER!

She really was a sweet old woman.



THAT MEAN OLD BIDDY, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I PLAY DOMINOES WITH HER.

YES, MA'AM.



I WONDER WHO WOULD BE CALLING ME AT THIS HOUR?



HELLO?
HELLO?
THERE'S NO ONE THERE?

I KNOW, MA'AM. I'M SORRY I LIED TO YOU.

I DON'T LINDERSTAND? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

As bad as I wanted her light, I just couldn't lie to her anymore.

I CAME HERE FOR YOU.



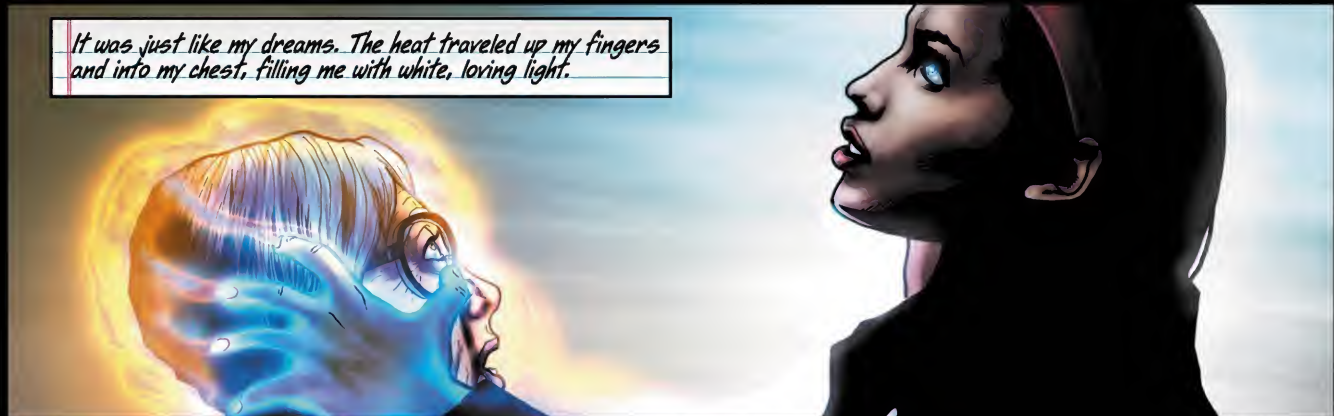
FOR ME?
ARE YOU?
ARE YOU AN
ANGEL?

AN
ANGEL?



Okay, I lied a little.

YES
MY DEAR,
OF COURSE
I AM.



It was just like my dreams. The heat traveled up my fingers and into my chest, filling me with white, loving light.



And something else.



CALL AN
AMBULANCE!
IDA WALKER'S
STOPPED
BREATHING!

*Now I could see Ida's
angels as well.*

MOONLIGHT SERENADE

R. D. HALL **JASON BADOWER**
Writer *Art*
ANNETTE KWOK **COMICRAFT**
Colors *Lettering*
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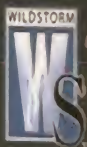
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